



New Season Beckons...

Welcome to our New Teams

Vol. 6. No. 1, July 2011

A warm welcome to the new football season with Lea Sports PSG FC and to our sixth season of Newsletters.

A special welcome to the teams who are with us for the first time this year: two teams have joined us from Hitchin Town and will play at Under Fourteen: one team in Division One of the Royston Crow league and one team in Division Five of the Chiltern Youth league. We have also introduced a further Under Eights team on Sunday mornings. This team, which will play in the Bedfordshire Mini-Soccer league has been named the 'Cougars' to distinguish it from the two Under Eights teams who play on Saturdays in the Royston Crow league (the Panthers and Pumas).

The Saturday team should face their new challenge in Division 1 of the Bedfordshire County League with confidence and with a new kit, after Sponsor Form I.T. Supplies provided funding for yet another season.



We are also hoping for Sponsorship for Matt Bean's Under Nines—watch this space. Any other companies who would like to sponsor one of our teams should contact me at secretary@lspsg.co.uk.

Let me also remind you (or tell new readers) that there is a wealth of information about the Club on our website at www.lspsg.co.uk. Not only fixtures for each team and month-by-month, but league tables and historical information tracing the Club's history back to its roots in Luton in 1973. Worth a browse... There will also be snippets of information on Twitter this season—why not follow us?



This year we will again be running our ever-popular Premier League Competition (our 26th season!!). All you have to do is to try and forecast the final positions of the teams in the Premier League 1-20. The person who is nearest wins the cash! (Actually, the top 4 or 5 people all get a cash prize, so well worth a go). See team managers for an entry form or download one from <http://www.lspsg.co.uk/Datafiles/PremLgeComp/Entry%20form%202011-12.pdf> (or just go to the website and click on Premier League Competition).

It's only two quid—please have a go.

Lea Sports PSG Football Club Established 1973
 A FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHARTER DEVELOPMENT CLUB
PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION 2011-2012
 (Twenty-sixth Season)

RULES

The object of the Competition is to forecast the final 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 write 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 forecasted position. For example, if you put Chelsea 6th and they finish 14th you score 8 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 tie-breaker.

Regular updates are available on the Club website www.lspsg.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.

1-20	Your forecast here
1.	ARSENAL
2.	ASTON VILLA
3.	BLACKBURN ROVERS
4.	BOLTON WINDS.
5.	CHELSEA
6.	EVERTON
7.	FULHAM
8.	LIVERPOOL
9.	MANCHESTER CITY
10.	MANCHESTER UTD.
11.	NEWCASTLE UTD.
12.	NORWICH CITY
13.	QUEENS PK.RANGERS
14.	STOKE CITY
15.	SUNDERLAND
16.	SWANSEA CITY
17.	TOTTENHAM H.
18.	WEST BROMWICH
19.	WIGAN ATHLETIC
20.	WOLVERHAMPTON W.

CLOSING DATE: SUNDAY, 18th SEPTEMBER 2011



Development at the Rec.

As I'm sure most of you will know by now, the project to build a new Pavilion at the Recreation Ground has been unable to obtain the necessary funding to proceed. Maybe in a few years when the country has got some money again we will take a fresh look, but for now it's a no-go.

Instead, the emphasis has switched to making improvements to what we already have. The Clubhouse is due to be redecorated in the next few weeks, with new carpets and tables being purchased imminently. We also have a structural engineer making recommendations for improvements to the shower and toilet areas of the Clubhouse so there should be some building work there soon. I would urge you all to remember that the Clubhouse is maintained and run by volunteers and is what we make it. Please respect the facilities available and keep the place clean and tidy. Although not perfect, the facilities in Pirton are the envy of many clubs and we should be proud of what we have available to us.

This respect should also be extended to the behaviour of players and officials at the Recreation Ground. Please remember that the ground is used by a large number of people playing different sports, not just footballers and you are all asked to be mindful of your language and behaviour when representing Lea Sports PSG. (More details of the Club's Codes of Conduct are on the website).



Hertfordshire - County of Opportunity...

This season our youth and Sunday adult teams have affiliated to Hertfordshire, rather than Bedfordshire. The reason for this change is the punitive charges for compulsory insurance levied by the Beds FA –last season this cost the Club over £500 for very little return. This means that the Sunday adults, the Under 18s, Under 15s and Under 14s will play in the Hertfordshire County Cup. If any of you have driven from Shillington to Pirton you will have seen that on the sign announcing you are entering the County it says 'Hertfordshire—County of Opportunity'. We'll see if that applies to our teams this season!

Saturdays Get us off to a Winning Start

The Saturday team started the season well with a win in their Friendly match vs. Kents at Pirton on Friday 29th July. Graeme Clark scored twice and James Awofisan got off the mark in a 3-2 victory.

Get Your Picnics Ready...

A reminder that next Friday (August 7th) there is a 'Candlelight Picnic' at the Recreation Ground. This is FREE to allcomers and starts at 8 pm: there is music from Sharp's Hooter, Heretic's Dream and Chris Smith & Irina Sexton. Bring candles and a picnic and enjoy some outdoor music into the night... (In the bar if wet...)



Lea Sports Retain the Premier Cup

Fine Win over Celtic Secures the Trophy Vol. 6. No. 2, August 2011

Lea Sports Sunday XI retained the pre-season Premier Cup after an emphatic 4-1 win over Celtic on Sunday 28th August. The home side had to win to take the Cup after both sides had beaten Hexton and Peguform in the previous two weeks. A draw would have given Celtic the cup because they had scored more goals, but Lea Sports took charge of the game from the off and a first half hat-trick from Ritchie Bevan put the result beyond doubt before the game was marred by a serious injury to a Celtic player.



In a 50-50 challenge, the Celtic player came off worse and ended up with what looked like a badly broken leg. After a lengthy delay, to allow an ambulance to treat the player, the game was restarted, but neither side really had the appetite for the fight after the injury and the game petered out into a 4-1 final score— Jack Baggett notching the fourth for the home team.

Overall, it's not been too bad a month for our teams. The Sunday Reserves went down 2-1 in their first friendly away to Wymondley, but made up for that result with an 8-2 win over St. Josephs Reserves in Pirton on August 25th (rumour has it that Man.Utd. followed our lead a few days later). Second half sub Ben Morris from the Under 18s grabbed a hat-trick, while Gary Raymond scored twice. Other goals came from Scott Morgan, Luke Day and Tom Newland, who also scored the consolation against Wymondley. The Saturday XI continued their impressive pre-season following up a 2-1 win over Premier side Wilhampstead with a 3-2 win over Henlow.

The new Under 14 side started their campaign with a tough friendly away to Welwyn Pegasus. Goalkeeper Matt Emmerson was man-of-the-match as the lads suffered a 2-0 defeat. The Saturday XI round off the friendlies with a tough visit to Premier side Oakley Sports on August 30th



Sponsorship Deals About to be Finalised

There has been much activity on the Sponsorship front.



Space 2 Play have had the
Grace 2 Pay!

The Under Nines have been sponsored by Hitchin-based Space2Play, while HGV training company Chequered Flag have agreed to give a sizeable sum towards a new kit for the Sunday Firsts. More details next month.



Chequered Flag have given us
the Green Light!

Sign Up for the Quiz

The next event at the Clubhouse is a **General Knowledge Quiz** on Friday September 30th. (8 pm)

Tickets are £5 per person and teams may have up to 6 members. A chilli supper will be served at half-time. Come along and support the Club as it raises funds for Clubhouse improvements. See Steve Smith for tickets.



Home Draw for Sunday 1sts in County Cup, but others travel...

The County Cup draws have now been made and the Sunday Firsts find themselves with a bye in Round 1 of the Hertfordshire Intermediate Cup. In Round 2 they have a home tie against either Robin Hood from Tring or Green Man of Widford near Ware. The Reserves travel to Jolly Sailors of Buntingford on Sep.18th in Round 1 of the Herts Junior Cup. The Saturday XI, still playing in Bedfordshire, will host cup holders AFC Dunstable Reserves if they can get past St. Josephs in Round 1, whilst the Under Eighteens start life in the Herts County Cup with a trip to Barmond United in Stevenage; Bishops Stortford Under 17s await the winners. The Under Fourteens also have a bye in Round 1 of the Competition, but then face a trip to either Herts Signs in Hatfield or Bedwell Rangers of Stevenage in Round 2.

Fixtures and Results on the Website

A reminder that the fixtures and results for all teams are on the Website (www.lpspg.co.uk) together with links to the various leagues' sites and league tables. Finally, a reminder to all teams to respect other users of the Recreation Ground and MIND YOUR LANGUAGE..... Have a great season.



Mixed Fortunes as the Season Gets Going

Some Good Points Earned

Vol. 6. No. 3, September 2011

On the first full weekend of the season for all our teams on September 10th/11th there were some amazing stories in the matches played.

The **Under 8s Panthers and Pumas** got the weekend off to a cracking start, both winning their match against Shefford Saints Whites by a 4-0 scoreline. Ben Bayley showed his serious intent to defend his Mini-Golden Boot by scoring 5 times, while Matthew Morton, Sam Tonge and Sam Germann were also on the scoresheet. It looked as though the **Saturday Adults** would continue the trend when Dion Brown gave them a tenth minute lead in their first ever game in Division 1, but a last-minute equaliser from Caldecote Reserves saw the points shared.

On Sunday morning the **First XI** took their first points of the season without kicking a ball when Luton Old Boys team and conceded the game. hopes having beaten their opponent a friendly just a fortnight ago, the other foot as we missed two times and ended up losing 5-1;



turned up at Pirton with half a The **Reserves** also had high hopes but this time the boot was on penalties, hit the woodwork 5 Lewis Smith scoring the consolation goal. At the same time over in Dunstable the **Under 8 Cougars** played their first ever competitive match, but it was to be no fairytale start as Dunstable ran out 5-0 winners. The **Under 9s** fared better in their first League encounter and ran out 3-2 winners at Eastcotts, thanks to 2 goals from Ethan Wilson and 1 from Findlay Norrington. With the **Under 14 CYL** team's game at Dunton cancelled, all eyes were on the **Crow** team who faced a tough start to their league campaign with a home game vs. Letchworth GC Eagles. Tom Morris-Pond scored against the three-time County Cup finalists, but the points were shared after a tough second half against the wind.

In the afternoon it looked as though the **Under 18s** had got off to the perfect start as goals from James Miley, Divesh Kumar and 2 from Ben Morris gave them a 4-0 lead, but Crawley Green came back and the game ended in a remarkable 4-4 draw, with former Lea Sports man Bradley Turner playing a part in the home team's comeback.

Congrats to Rob and Lizzie



Congratulations to Rob and Lizzie Bayley on the birth of their new son Ashley, a brother for Benjamin and Samuel. Unfortunately, Ashley was born just after the August 31st registration deadline, which means we will have to wait another year before he can don a red and black

striped shirt. Mind you, if he follows in the footsteps of Ben and Samuel he will be worth waiting for. (By the way, the picture isn't actually him, just some picture I found on the Internet! Sorry about the pink hat...)



Reserves Float Their County Cup Boat...

Jolly Sailors All At Sea in Buntingford

The **Reserves** got their County Cup campaign off to a good start with a 6-2 defeat of the Jolly Sailors in Buntingford. Playing on a lovely flat pitch the Reserves got their passing game going and left the Sailors high and dry with a hat-trick from Tom Newland. Greg Whelan and Jon Whitehead also got on the scoresheet as the pink-shirted sailorboys finished up the creek without a paddle. We face Steam Coach from Hemel Hempstead in the next round, so I'll have to think up a whole load of new puns for that one...!

Farewell to another Old Faithful — Bill Hind Passes Away.

The Club received the sad news this month that one of its long-standing members Bill Hind had passed away. Bill made his debut for the Club on 16th October 1977 in perhaps his least favoured position: goalkeeper in a 5-0 defeat for the Reserves vs. Microwave. He went on to make 227 appearances in total, the vast majority of those for the 2nd and 3rd teams; he also shares the distinction with Chris Gatherth of having made over 100 appearances as substitute, especially while managing the Reserves between 1984 and 1988. Bill was voted Clubman in 1985-86, but his first loyalty was always to the Teachers' Centre and this led to a rift between himself and Lea Sports shortly before the Club's departure for Pirton in the mid 1990s. It was during this time that he refused a Vice-President's position with the Club. Nevertheless, Bill always gave 100% on the pitch and the Club would like to pass on its condolences to his wife Anna and to family and friends.

Under Eights Lift the Gloom

With the adult sides struggling on the last weekend of the month (see article on page 3) the **Under Eights** lifted the gloom with the Cougars and Panthers winning and the Pumas earning a draw. Edward Pipe, Oliver McGrath and Luke Woodward were on target as the Cougars achieved their first win with a 3-1 scoreline at Dunstable Town Icknield. The Panthers also won: 2-0 away at Bishop's Stortford with Thomas Brown and Sam Germann getting the goals. Edward Laws scored the Pumas' goal in a 1-1 draw in their corresponding fixture.

Seen the latest news???

- Europe
- [PSG interested in signing Beckham](#)



[Have a look here...](#)

Thanks to Paul Boggon for spotting this ...

Did You Know.....?

From the Club fixtures on the website you can go straight to the League Table for each team? Click on the link in the top right-hand corner:

SUNDAY SECOND TEAM				North Home Counties Div. 3
NTS	COMPETITION	H/A	SCORE	SCORERS
	Friendly	A	1-2	Newland
s.	Friendly	H	8-2	Day, Morgan, Morris (3), Newland, Raymond (2)
rs	League	H	3-2	McAnenev, Thompson (2)



Adults Crash and Burn

Three Cup Defeats for our Senior Sides

On the final weekend of the month none of our three adult sides could muster a goal in five and a half hours of football as all three crashed out of Cup competitions.

On Saturday 24th the **Saturday XI** took on St. Josephs with just the bare 11 players. Having won the Bedfordshire Junior Cup last season the team were keen to have a crack at the Intermediate Competition, but their run was short-lived as the game finished 0-0 after extra time. Sam Luciano was the only player to score a penalty as we lost the shoot-out 2-1.

On Sunday morning the **First XI** hosted Luton Old Boys, who featured some Lea Sports old boys in their line-up. Old Boys barely managed a shot on goal in 120 minutes as Lea Sports dominated possession but could not find the guile in front of goal to break the deadlock. In the end the home side's profligacy was carried over into the penalty shoot-out as they missed their first two shots. Old Boys made no mistake, scoring their first four penalties to steal the tie and progress to the Second Round of the North Home Counties Senior Trophy.

The **Reserves**, who made it through to the Final of the Challenge Cup last season, found themselves paired with St. Joseph's Reserves for the third time this season in Round One of this year's competition. There was to be no repeat of last year's heroics, however, as the team went down 4-0 at Leagrave Park.

Fortunately, one of our teams CAN take penalties: the **Under Fourteens** were in **Chiltern Youth** Lower League Cup action away to Westoning Rec. At full-time the score was 3-3 with goals from Jake Cook, Ollie Pitts and Chris Davies. Extra time brought no further goals, but this time we won the penalty shoot-out 3-1.

Adults take note....

Tom Morris-Pond on Target as Under 14s Start Well

Tom Morris-Pond scored for the third time in 3 games as the **Under Fourteens** maintained their good start in the **Royston Crow** Division 1 with a 1-0 win over Knebworth in Pirton. This followed up a 2-0 win away to Bishop's Stortford Town the previous week to give the lads 7 points from their first 3 games.

After a 4-4 draw with Crawley Green in their first league fixture, the **Under 18s** went one better on September 25th with a 5-5 draw away at Sacred Heart: a game in which they had to play most of the second half with 10 men as their injury problems continued to mount after Ryan Batty had to retire early. Simon Prue grabbed a hat-trick, but blotted his copy-book by picking up a yellow card as the team secured its second point of the season. Divesh Kumar and Warren Bell scored the other goals.

Quiz Tickets Left...

There are still a few places left for the Quiz at the Clubhouse next Friday (30th) at 8 pm. Tickets are £5 each and include a supper of Chilli and French Bread. If you are interested, please e-mail me (secretary@lpspg.co.uk) so we know the numbers for catering. You will be able to see the new carpeting and tables as the Clubhouse redecoration progresses: only the ceiling and walls to do now... (Hopefully we'll soon be able to lay new floors in the changing rooms as well. Watch this space for developments).



County Cups Still Alive on Sundays

Cup Wins for Firsts and Seconds

Vol. 6. No. 4, October 2011

A Black and White Weekend to Start the Month

Saturday October 1st was a day to be forgotten: the **Saturday team**, double-winners last season, could not manage to field a side for their fixture vs. Marston Shelton, whilst the **Under Eights Panthers and Pumas** both fell to disappointing 3-0 defeats away to Biggleswade Town.

Sunday was as blisteringly hot as the day before, but it didn't cramp the **First Team's** style as they romped to a 4-2 victory—and top spot in the league—at 61 FC in Luton. Mark Brown scored twice and Gary Raymond and Titch Bevan notched one each. The **Reserves** meanwhile toiled to a 0-0 draw with Hexton in Pirton.

North Home Counties Division 1 October 3rd 2011

Division 1									
1	LEA SPORTS PSG	4	3	0	1	10	8	9	2
2	SPORTING CLUB OFFLEY	4	2	2	0	11	5	8	6
3	CLUB LEWSEY RESERVES	4	2	1	1	12	6	7	6
4	CO-OP SPORTS	3	2	0	1	8	5	6	3

The **Under Fourteens** picked up another away point in the **Royston Crow** Division One as Tom Morris-Pond kept his scoring run going in a 1-1 draw, whereas the **Chiltern Youth Under Fourteens** won their first fixture: a 2-1 away win at Bedford Park Rangers Sabres (Davies and Pitts the scorers). BPR's first defeat of the season.

Royston Crow Division 1 October 3rd 2011

1	Buntingford Cougars Blues	3	2	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	18	0	18	9
2	Royston Celtic Whites	3	1	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	4	2	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
3	Lea Sports PSG	4	1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0	3	1	2	2	0	5	2	3	8
4	Hatfield Youth	4	2	0	0	5	1	0	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	6	6	0	7

In the mini-soccer fixtures the **Under Nines** must be wondering how they managed to lose 2-1 at home to Houghton Athletic. They went a goal up through Ethan Wilson and it only looked a matter of time before they increased their lead as attack after attack threatened the Houghton goal. But a breakaway from Houghton just before the interval brought a corner and as the ball was crossed in, the referee spotted a handball and the resultant penalty was despatched to make the score 1-1 at half-time. The second half was more even as substitutions were made and it was Houghton who pinched a winner, again after another breakaway. Meanwhile, the **Under 8s Cougars** recorded their second victory with a hard-fought 1-0 win over Clapham Colts. The defence, in particular, gave an outstanding performance as they prevented Clapham from scoring for the first time this season.

The fixtures for the next phase of Under 8s Cougars matches is now available (and on the website at www.lspg.co.uk). The lads are keen to get going again after a half-term break, but face tough trips to Markyate and Luton Old Boys before welcoming AFC Dunstable to the Recreation Ground on November 27th.

The Club will be represented by the Under 8 Saturday sides at a wreath-laying ceremony at Pirton Memorial on Sunday November 13th. Steve Smith will be representing Pirton Sports and Social Club at the annual event.

Extra Web Address: You can now also find us at www.leasports.com



Sizeable Entry for the Premier League Competition



After a slow start there was a late flurry of entries for the Premier League Competition, taking the final count of entries to 126. This means a First Prize of £70 awaits the Winner, with three other prizes of £32, £16 and £8 for those finishing 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Leading the way at this early stage is Andy Blades, one of Archie's entrants, closely followed by Baggy and Stuart Wallace. Results will be updated on the website from time to time—check your progress at http://www.lpspg.co.uk/Prem_Lge.htm.



An Unbeaten Weekend as the Light Fades...

On the last weekend before the clocks went back for the Winter our Senior Teams enjoyed an unbeaten weekend. With the mini-soccer teams out of action for half-term, the only blemish on the weekend of October 22/23 was that the Under Fourteens were unable to fulfil their Chiltern Youth fixture away to Houghton Athletic, meaning that their 100% record disappeared without them kicking a ball. Elsewhere the news was better as Danny Hardacre notched a hat-trick for the Saturday team: unfortunately it was only enough for one point as the team who couldn't stop winning last year had to share 6 goals with AFC Kempston and Bedford College Reserves. Sunday, however brought 4 wins: it was a shame that Littlejohn wasn't quite fit to face Robin Hood in the Intermediate Cup (because it would have made life easier when it comes to writing headlines) but Gary Raymond did the business with two second-half goals to take the First XI through to a home third round tie in November with Stevenage side MKS Carpentry, who beat Markyate 7-6 in Round 2. The Reserves enjoyed a day out at Bushmead Rovers, winning 3-2 with 2 goals from Jack Baggett (still chasing his dad's total) and one from Jamie Richards. There were 2 goals also from James Miley and from Ben Morris as the Under 18s took all 3 points in a 4-3 win at Dunstable Town. Not to be outdone, Fabian Brown-Johnson scored twice on his return from injury and Sam Webb also scored twice, including a 25-yarder, as the Under 14s beat Hatfield 4-1.

Did You Know.....?

Up to the start of this season our adult teams between them had scored 8,238 goals, since the Club's formation in 1973. Phil Thompson has scored 675 of those—just over 8%..

Top scorer for the youth teams is Matt Kenneford, who scored 226 goals in just 137 matches before joining Luton Town, including 74 goals in the 2001-02 season

The highest ranked player to have scored for both youth and adult teams is Jamie Richards, who scored 14 goals in just 5 appearances for the Under 14s in 1996-97 before going on to score a further 151 goals for the adult teams, including 68 for the First Team and 56 for the Reserves to the start of this season. His last goal was on October 23rd with a cracking strike in a 3-2 win over Bushmead.



New Kit on Display...

With our main Club Sponsors Form I.T. Solutions supporting last season's successful Saturday team, local electricians Current Solutions have come forward to pay for new kit for the Sunday First Team. Shame nobody reminded them that we play in red and black stripes—but it does look good...





Horror Show at Hallowe'en for our Senior Sides

The final weekend of the month brought more misery for the **Saturday team**. Without a win this season they were hopeful of breaking their duck at home to Henlow, whom they had beaten 3-2 in a pre-season friendly. There was to be no repeat performance, however, as the team went down 2-0.

The following day, October 30th, the **First Team** travelled to unbeaten Sporting Club Offley but returned empty-handed. Offley are in good form at the moment, winning their County Cup tie the previous week against AC Finchley by 10 goals to 1 and their goal spree continued as they ran out 4-1 winners. A consolation goal from Mark Brown was all we had to show for our efforts.

It looked at first as though it was going to be a Nightmare on Walnut Tree Road for the Reserves as visitors Woodstock Wanderers raced into a 2-0 lead at the Recreation Ground. The home side stuck to their guns, however, and a far post header from Simon Mayes following good work from Greg Whelan gave them hope. Woodstock heads were down and it wasn't long before new signing Tyrone Clarke split the Wanderers' defence to slot home the equaliser. Two more goals from the home side followed in quick succession, but sloppy defending allowed Woodstock to scramble the ball home on the stroke of half time to make the interval score 4-3. Shortly after the break a penalty settled any nerves for the Reserves: although Ben Thomson's spot kick was well saved by the keeper Aaron Mullings followed up to slot the rebound into the far corner to give us a two goal cushion once more. The Reserves continued to dominate proceedings and scored late on to finish the game as 6-3 winners and to move into the top half of the table. Division 3 is wide open this season with 6 of the 11 teams (ourselves included) having lost 2 matches so far, so the team is hoping for a consistent run to establish themselves as contenders.

Division 3 as at October 31st 2011:

Division 3		Pld	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
1	A C CADOZA RESERVES	5	4	1	0	16	5	13	11
2	BARNFIELD	7	4	1	2	22	12	13	10
3	PEGUFORM ICKNIELD	7	4	1	2	16	13	13	3
4	HEXTON	7	3	2	2	12	11	11	1
5	LEA SPORTS PSG RESERVES	6	3	1	2	14	15	10	-1
6	LUTON WANDERERS	8	3	0	5	19	18	9	1
7	ST JOSEPHS RESERVES	7	2	3	2	11	13	9	-2
8	LILLEY RANGERS	6	2	2	2	10	10	8	0
9	WOODSTOCK WANDERERS	7	2	1	4	19	27	7	-8
10	FLINT UNITED	7	1	2	4	9	18	5	-9
11	BUSHMEAD ROVERS	7	1	0	4	4	10	3	-6

The **Under Fourteen teams** both put in strong performances to reinforce their good starts to the season. At Knebworth the **Royston Crow** team all performed well as they raced into a 4-0 half-time lead with goals from Fabian Brown-Johnson (2), Gianni Picone and Tom Morris-Pond. Sam Webb rounded off a great team move in the second half to leave the lads with a 5-0 victory. Meanwhile, the **Chiltern Youth team** recorded their third victory on the pitch with a 2-1 win at Bedford PR Sabres., Ben Whitehead & Jake Cook the scorers. The Under 18s had no match but the game between their 2 closest rivals Flitwick and Crawley Green was abandoned. More news when we have it...



A Lea Sports Legend Hangs Up His Boots

Injury Forces Phil Thompson to Retire

Vol. 6. No. 5, November 2011

Phil Thompson received the results of x-rays this week which show severe osteo-arthritic changes in his left hip. Phil has been referred to a specialist and surgery may be needed. It means the end of a fantastic career with Lea Sports Football Club.

Phil made his debut for Lea Sports on 21st November 1982, scoring for the Third Team in a 2-2 draw with Toddington Farmers. In the intervening three decades he has scored no fewer than 677 goals in 663 games in all competitions—a strike rate of 102.1%. He has 250 more goals than second-top scorer Phil Clarke.

This season injury has restricted him to just four appearances for the Reserves, but his 2 goals against Luton Wanderers helped set up a 3-2 win. His final appearance was in the Herts.Junior Cup win away to Jolly Sailors on 18th September 2011.

Phil's scoring feats are well-documented, but I repeat a few here: his record in one match was seven on 6th November 1988 vs.Holy Ghost at Leagrave Park, in a match Lea Sports won 17-0. In the return fixture on 18th December Phil scored his 100th goal for the Club. On 30th March 2008 against Dynamo Old Boys at Lewsey Park Phil needed 1 goal to reach 600—we needn't have worried as he scored the first of his 4 goals that evening within 2 minutes in a 6-0 win.

The Club wishes Phil all the very best for the future.

Thanks Phil. It's been a privilege to watch you over the years.

Contact Phil at: phil@thompsonsmk.co.uk



APPEARANCES							GOALS						
First XI	Second XI	Third XI	Sat. XI	Veterans	TOTAL	Year	First XI	Second XI	Third XI	Sat. XI	Veterans	TOTAL	
4 (2)	9	2	0	0	15 (2)	1982-83	3	4	1	0	0	8	
14 (1)	1 (2)	3	0	0	18 (3)	1983-84	12	0	1	0	0	13	
2 (2)	5	3	0	0	10 (2)	1984-85	1	3	5	0	0	9	
3	5 (1)	7	0	0	15 (1)	1985-86	2	2	14	0	0	18	
18 (2)	5	5	0	0	28 (2)	1986-87	11	2	10	0	0	23	
22 (1)	5 (1)	1	0	0	28 (2)	1987-88	7	6	1	0	0	14	
22	0	5	0	0	27	1988-89	24	0	14	0	0	38	
25 (2)	2 (1)	0	0	0	27 (3)	1989-90	20	1	0	0	0	21	
26 (1)	0	1	0	0	27 (1)	1990-91	29	0	0	0	0	29	
17 (2)	2 (3)	0	0	0	19 (5)	1991-92	12	1	0	0	0	13	
0	1	0	0	0	1	1992-93	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26	0	0	1	1	28	1993-94	37	0	0	2	3	42	
26 (1)	1	0	0	0	27 (1)	1994-95	26	2	0	0	0	28	
0	0	12 (1)	0	3	15 (1)	1995-96	0	0	19	0	17	36	
24 (1)	1	1	0	0	26 (1)	1996-97	16	1	3	0	0	20	
0	3 (1)	21	0	0	24 (1)	1997-98	0	4	28	0	0	32	
0	4	27 (1)	0	0	31 (1)	1998-99	0	10	45	0	0	55	
0	1	21 (1)	0	0	22 (1)	1999-00	0	1	24	0	0	25	
17	0 (1)	0	0	0	17 (1)	2000-01	25	0	0	0	0	25	
19 (1)	0	0	0	1	20 (1)	2001-02	31	0	0	0	1	32	
25	0	0	0	0	25	2002-03	33	0	0	0	0	33	
13	0	0	1	0	14	2003-04	11	0	0	0	0	11	
24	0	0	0	0	24	2004-05	23	0	0	0	0	23	
19	0	0	0	0	19	2005-06	12	0	0	0	0	12	
20 (3)	0	0	0	1	21 (3)	2006-07	10	0	0	0	2	12	
2 (1)	24	0	0	0	26 (1)	2007-08	2	35	0	0	0	37	
1	24	0	0	0	25	2008-09	0	34	0	0	0	34	
1	21 (1)	0	0	0	22 (1)	2009-10	0	11	0	0	0	11	
0	23 (1)	0	0	0	23 (1)	2010-11	0	21	0	0	0	21	
0	4	0	0	0	4	2011-12	0	2	0	0	0	2	
370 (20)	141 (12)	109 (3)	2	6	628 (35)		347	140	165	2	23	677	



Big Cats on the Prowl

Panthers and Pumas Get the Month off to a Great Start

The Under Eights Panthers and Pumas returned to action on November 5th trying to continue the form they showed in their last matches on October 15th when the Panthers won 8-1 and the Pumas 5-1 against Baldock Town.



The month began with the visit of Bassingbourn and whereas the Panthers squeezed out a 2-1 win, thanks to goals from Thomas Brown and Matthew Morton, the Pumas completely overwhelmed their opposition, winning 9-0 with goals from Ben Bayley, Sam Germann,

James Horn, Henry Huxley, Sam Tonge and four from Edward Laws. This was followed up on Remembrance Weekend with a tough trip to Wymondley: an own goal gave the Panthers victory, while the Pumas once again impressed in a 3-1 win with Ben Bayley, Henry Huxley and Oliver Scott on target. The squad carried their good form into the penultimate weekend of November, when Ashwell Academicals were the visitors. Two goals from Thomas Brown gave the Panthers a 2-0 win, while the Pumas went goal mad again with another six of the best. Ben Bayley, Sam Germann, James Horn, Matthew Morton and 2 from Henry Huxley gave them a 6-4 win.

Golden Boot Competition is Fierce

With last year's Golden Boot winner (for the top scorer in our 11-a-side teams) James Awofisan away at University, competition is hotting up to place a new name on the trophy. Ritchie Bevan has now scored 14 for the Sunday Firsts, while Warren Bell has 12 and Ben Morris 13 for the Under Eighteens but Ben Morris also scored a hat-trick as a second-half substitute for the Sunday Reserves in their pre-season friendly vs. St. Josephs giving him a total of 16 so far.



Standings at the end of November:

Ben Morris (U18): **16** (inc.3 for Res.); Ritchie Bevan (1st): **14**; Warren Bell (U18): **12**; Gary Raymond (1st): **11** (inc.2 for Res.); Tom Newland (Res.): **8**; Divesh Kumar (U18): **7**; Simon Prue (U18): **7**; Ollie Pitts (U14CY): **7**; Jack Baggett (Res.): **7** (inc.3 for 1st); Tom Morris-Pond (U14RC): **6**; Fabian Brown-Johnson (U14RC): **6**; Simon Mayes (Res.): **6**.

Saturdays Can't Buy a Win

The Saturday team finished a difficult run of 3 away games on the trot with a third draw—1-1 away to high-flying Lidlington United Sports. This moves the lads up to 11th in the table, with 6 draws and 4 defeats from their 10 league games. They will be endeavouring to gain their first win when they play the return fixture against Lidlington at the Recreation Ground on December 3rd.

Extra Web Address: You can now also find us at www.leasports.com



November Starts With a Bang

Fireworks at the Start of the Month

Bonfire weekend got the month off to a great start for the Club, with only the Under 8 Cougars and Under 14 CY teams falling to a defeat and two of our teams scoring nine goals out of a full fixture list of 10 matches. The **Saturday team** travelled to top side Ickwell and Old Warden, who had thumped Westoning at home 5-0 the week before, but a Danny Hardacre penalty earned the lads a valuable point. The **Under Eights Panthers and Pumas** enjoyed themselves at home to Bassingbourn. For the Panthers, goals from Thomas Brown and Matthew Morton brought a 2-1 win, while the Pumas won 9-0 with goals from Ben Bayley, Sam Gemann, James Horn, Henry Huxley, Sam Tonge and four from Edward Laws.



The **Sunday First Team** fell behind to an early goal at home to Silsoe Park Rangers, but came back strongly. Ben Alderton equalised with a well-taken effort before Mark Brown curled one in and Danny Davis made it 3-1. The **Reserves** have hit a patch of good form and beat Luton Wanderers 9-4 with goals from Jack Baggett, Aaron Mullings and Greg Whelan; and two each from Simon Mayes, Tom Newland and Jamie Richards.

Interestingly, after these results both the First and Second teams sat 4th in their respective tables, with 13 points from 7 games.

The **Under Eighteens** recorded their fifth win on the trot with a 5-1 victory at EB Lions: on target were Richard Bailey, Divesh Kumar, Warren Bell and Ben Morris (2). The **Under Fourteens** kept their strong form going in the Royston Crow Division 1 despite an injury to the keeper in the warm-up with a 2-1 win over Letchworth Garden City Whites— Fabian Brown-Johnson scoring twice for the third game in a row. In the Chiltern Youth League the **Under Fourteens** suffered their first defeat in Division 5; Ollie Pitts was on target, but the visitors Leighton B scored 4 in reply. The **Under 8s Cougars** put in a good performance at Markyate, with goalkeeper Matthew Emms in particular playing well, but in the end the lads were on the wrong end of a 3-7 scoreline. Alex Matsukatov and Luke Woodward (2) were the goalscorers.

Synchronicity.....

- The Under 18s League Table makes interesting reading - we have drawn 2 games: one against top side Crawley and one against bottom side Sacred Heart. Crawley have only conceded 6 all season and we scored 4 of them; Sacred Heart have only scored 7 all season and 5 of them were against us!
- Before the final games in November, both the Sunday First XI and Reserves sat third in their respective divisions, both having won 5, drawn 1 and lost 2 of their 8 games... and both had matches against the team lying just above them in the table. Both failed to win, the Firsts going down 5-1, while the Reserves drew 1-1 and were unlucky to have a second-half strike ruled out for offside.
- The Firsts weren't the only team to lose 5-1 as the Under 14s went out of the Chiltern Youth Lower League Cup away to Luton United. Gianni Picone scored their consolation goal.
- Nov.27th wasn't a great day in Pirtton, As well as the Reserves' draw, the Under 14s lost 1-0 at home to Royston Celtic in a scrappy game in the wind, while the Under 9s went from an Ethan Wilson goal up to lose 1-2 to Eastcotts and the Under 8 Cougars let a 2-0 half-time lead slip to draw 2-2 at home to AFC Dunstable.
- The Under 18s lifted the gloom with an excellent 2-0 win away to St.Josephs in the League Cup. James Miley and Ben Morris were on target.



More Sponsors Come Forward



The Under Fourteens have been pleased to announce [Casella Measurement](#) of Kempston as sponsors of their shirts for the current season.

A grant has also been secured from [Hitchin Youth Trust](#) towards the cost of rain jackets for the squad.



Ben Bayley & Ethan Wilson Lead the Hunt for the Mini-Golden Boot

The Mini-Golden Boot is the award for the top scorer across our 7-a-side teams. At the end of November, last year's joint winner Benjamin Bayley leads the way on 10, sharing the lead with Ethan Wilson (Under 9s) while just behind is Tom Brown (Under 8s) on 7. Matthew Morton is a close fourth at this stage of the season on 6 goals.

New FA Website launched

The FA have launched a new website which offers free advice for parents, coaches and clubs. Why not take a look at <http://thefa.com/YourGame>.





Under Nines Lose Their Way in the Fog

On a murky Sunday morning on November 20th, the **Under Nines** came unstuck against bottom of the table Mid-Beds Tigers. Expecting an easy morning, the lads were in for a nasty shock as the visitors won just their second game of the season. The only other losing team this weekend was the **Under 14s**—playing with just 10 men in the **CYL Division 5** clash with Oakley Rangers Tigers, a goal from Ollie Pitts was not enough to save the team from a 1-2 reverse.



Meanwhile the **Royston Crow Under 14s** sailed into the next round of the League Cup (and a clash with table-toppers Buntingford Cougars Blues) with an easy 5-0 victory away to Spartan Colts: Simon Gaitan, Tommy Waby, Sam Webb and Tom Morris-Pond (2) were the scorers. The **Under 18s** played their 9th away game of 10 fixtures this season but still enjoyed their 7th win in a row as goals from Warren Bell and a hat-trick from Divesh Kumar gave them a 4-0 win.

Our Sunday adult teams both won: the **Firsts** were involved in an untidy County Cup match against an ill-disciplined MKS Carpentry from Stevenage. The visitors were reduced to 10 men when their Captain was dismissed for arguing in the first half; with the score already at 2-1 in Lea Sports' favour there was only going to be one winner. Gary Raymond scored 4, Mark Brown and Knocky 1 each and Titch Bevan 2 in an 8-3 win. Jon Whitehead scored twice and Tom Newland once as the **Reserves** beat Woodstock 3-2 in Luton to maintain their promotion thrust.

Club Appoints a new Club Welfare Officer

Sam Monk who has been the Club's CWO for the past few years is to give up her post shortly, so the Club has moved to appoint a replacement. Anne Horn, whose son plays for the Under Eights, has agreed to take over this important role. We will provide more details when Anne is up to speed with the requirements of the position.

Safeguarding covers everything from sideline abuse – swearing and bullying – to serious sexual abuse. The FA has a three-part approach to safeguarding:

- Getting the right people involved through carrying out references and CRB checks
- Creating a safe environment through codes of conduct, education and best practice
- Promoting clear systems, policies and procedures for dealing with concerns.

Pirton Newcomers Get a Taste of Lea Sports PSG

Every few years Pirton Parish Council organises a welcome event for newcomers to the village. This year the Football Club were represented by Steve Smith. On display in the village hall were the Bedfordshire Junior Cup, the Chiltern Youth Under 17 Division 2 Championship trophy and the Premier Cup, as well as a selection of Club literature and a shirt promoting Club Sponsors Form IT.



Extra Web Address: You can now also find us at www.leasports.com



Still in the Cup After Christmas!!

Firsts Eat Blackbirds for Breakfast

Vol. 6. No. 6, December 2011

The **Sunday First** team put the memory of two bad league defeats at Club Lewsey Res (1-5) and Bury Park Saracens (3-7) behind them as they set about beating Blackbird's Rangers from Hemel Hempstead in Round 4 of the Hertfordshire Intermediate Cup. The lads were optimistic, having beaten Robin Hood, who lead the division above Blackbirds, in Round 2, however Blackbirds were on a seven-match unbeaten run, having won 6 and drawn one of their last seven matches. The match was almost over in the first five minutes as Lea Sports powered into a 2-0 lead; by half time it was 5-0 and we even allowed ourselves the luxury of a missed penalty. Understandably, we took our foot off the gas in the second half and ran out 7-2 winners. Gary Raymond is enjoying the cup run, having scored 9 goals in the three ties including a hat-trick in this game (and Danny Davis told me to mention the fact that he scored a hat-trick against Bury Park and two more today—and the second one was rather good I suppose...). Mark Brown was also on target and Matt Day scored his first goal on Sundays this season.

The frosty weather put paid to the match away at Lewsey Park vs. CSFC on December 18th. (See *Cup Trip* article on Page 4)

After a routine 2-0 win over a poor Bushmead Rovers side on December 4th (goals from Aaron Mullings and Tom Newland), the **Reserves** travelled to league leaders Barnfield, but there were no presents on offer as the lads went down 2-0.

On December 18th at Pirton the Reserves were due to play their home match vs. St. Josephs Reserves in Division 3. The decision on whether or not to play was in the balance, as most of the pitch was playable, but in the end the solid surfaces in the goalmouths saw the postponement of the match. This was doubly frustrating for the players as the Under 14 and Under 9 games on the adjoining pitches both went ahead.

Leighton Joy and Leighton Misery for the Under Nines !

The **Under Nines** enjoyed their trip to Leighton United on December 11th, winning 3-2 with goals from Henry Brown, Tyger Cox and Ethan Wilson. A week later in Pirton the home game with Leighton Town just about survived the icy conditions, but it brought a very different result as the lads went down to a 1-9 defeat. Ethan Wilson scored our consolation against the league leaders who have only dropped 1 point so far.

More Sponsors Come Forward

The Under Fourteens have secured sponsorship from the Harpenden Window Company to enable them to buy training tops for their squad. See the link to Harpenden Windows on the Club website.



Merry Christmas from all at Lea Sports PSG



Under 8s

The Panthers and Pumas began the month with a strange pair of fixtures against Potton Colts. Firstly, Potton could not find a pitch to play on so the fixtures were switched to Pirton. Then the visitors arrived with only six players, so Matthew Morton was 'loaned' to the opposition so the game could go ahead. In the end a Ben Bayley goal gave the Panthers a 1-0 win, while the Pumas lost by the same score-line.

Their good form continued into a pair of home fixtures against Stotfold Juniors on December 10th. A goal from James Horn was enough to record a 1-0 win for the Panthers, while the Pumas ran out 4-1 winners with two goals from Benjamin Bayley and two from Matthew Morton.

The run-up to Christmas remained unbeaten as two friendlies vs. Bedford Panthers brought two hard-fought draws. The Panthers' game finished goalless, but for the Pumas Ben Bayley converted a penalty in a 1-1 draw.

On Sundays, the Cougars started the month well with a 3-2 win at Mid-Beds Tigers (McGrath 2 and Woodward the scorers), but the following week it took them 20 minutes to get going at home to Langford, and by then they were 2-0 down. Although Luke Woodward scored in the second half it was not enough to prevent a 3-1 reverse.

Saturdays at home at last, but still no joy

The Saturday XI played a home game on December 3rd for the first time since the end of October, but it didn't help. Despite a Dean Barnes goal and lots of possession the team went down 1-2. On December 10th they found themselves with a home fixture against league leaders Marston Shelton Rovers. Danny Hardacre missed a golden chance in the very first minute when he was put through by Matt Day but his shot flew inches over the bar. He made amends later in the half though, to give Lea Sports a 1-0 half-time lead. With the team playing well it looked as though the elusive first win of the season was going to come against the top side, but a goal five minutes from time gave Marston a point they barely deserved.

Youth Teams Impress

Max Burrows celebrated the quashing of his violent conduct charge at a Herts FA hearing with a hat-trick against Eastcotts Eagles in the **CYL Division 5** for the **Under 14s**—Ollie Pitts grabbed the other 2. Ollie was on target again on December 11th as the lads beat Oakley Rangers 3-2; Chris Davies scored the other 2. In December's final fixture— at home to Houghton Athletic on December 18th—it was Pitts who was on target again; this time with a hat-trick in a 3-1 win.

In the **Royston Crow League**, the **Under 14s** overcame Walkern by 2 goals to nil. Fabian Brown-Johnson not only has a double-barrelled surname, he also scores his goals in pairs—this was the fourth time this season he has been on the scoresheet and each time he has scored twice! Unfortunately, goals were hard to come by in the final game before Christmas at home to St. Neots Town Whites: the visitors took all three points on a difficult pitch, winning 1-0.

Warren Bell made sure we will have two teams in County Cup action in the new year as he scored a hat-trick for the **Under Eighteens** to see off Bury Rangers in Round 3 on December 11th in Pirton.



ADULTS GOALSCORERS TO CHRISTMAS 2011

Sunday 1st (17 games)		Sunday 2nd (17 games)		Saturdays (16 games)	
Alderton	3	Baggett	4	Awofisan	3
Baggett	3	Clarke	2	Barnes	1
Bevan	14	Day,L.	1	Brown,D.	1
Brown,M.	7	Greenhalge	1	Clark	2
Davis	6	Mayes	6	Collins,G.	1
Day,M.	1	McAneney	2	Day,M.	2
Knock	4	Morgan	1	Gittens	2
Raymond	12	Morris	3	Hardacre	5
(own goals)	2	Mullings	3	Hyde	1
TOTAL	52	Newland	9	Luciano	1
		Raymond	2	Trainor	1
		Richards	5	Woolfe	2
		Smith	1	(own goal)	1
		Thompson	2	TOTAL	23
		Thomson,B.	1		
		Whelan	4		
		Whitehead	3		
		TOTAL	50		

YOUTH GOALSCORERS TO CHRISTMAS 2011

Under 18 (13 games)		Under 14RC (17 games)		Under 14CY (13 games)	
Bailey	1	Abbott	1	Burrows	6
Batty	1	Brown-Johnson	8	Cook	3
Bell	15	French	1	Davies	5
Howard	1	Gaitan	1	Picone	1
Kumar	7	Morris-Pond	7	Pitts	13
Miley	5	Picone	1	Whitehead	3
Morris	13	Waby	1	TOTAL	31
Prue	7	Webb	4		
Welbury	4	Winters	1		
TOTAL	54	(own goal)	1		
		TOTAL	26		

A REMINDER...

Our Saturday morning Soccer Sessions for 4-7 year-olds with Coach Phil Toyer begin again on Saturday January 7th 2012 at 9.00 a.m. at the Recreation Ground.



MINI-SOCCER GOALSCORERS TO CHRISTMAS 2011

Under Nines (11 games)	Under 8 Panthers (11 games)	Under 8 Pumas (11 games)	Under 8 Cougars (10 games)
Brown,H. 2	Bayley 5	Bayley 9	Matsukatov 7
Cox 3	Brown,T. 6	Brown,T. 1	McGrath 3
Norrington 1	Germann 2	Germann 3	Pipe 1
Wilson 11	Horn 2	Horn 2	Woodward 5
TOTAL 17	Laws 1	Huxley 4	TOTAL 16
	Morton 5	Laws 5	
	Tonge 1	Morton 3	
	(own goal) 1	Rowe-Trelford 2	
	TOTAL 23	Scott 1	
		Scovell 2	
		Tonge 1	
		TOTAL 33	

Another Trip to AC Enfield—and a Score to Settle

Five years ago, in the 2006-07 Season, the Sunday Reserves battled through to the Fourth Round of the Hertfordshire Junior Cup. On a miserable day on December 17th 2006 they made the trip to AC Enfield, who play on a fairly boggy pitch with limited facilities.

After a bye in the First Round, The Second Round brought a home tie against Broxbourne Athletic in Pirton. Manager Ed Thomson led the way with 2 goals as the team won 8-4 (other goals coming from Bobby McGrath, Sam Masters (2), Barry Roe (2) and Ben Thomson). The Third Round also brought a home tie, vs. Tewin Athletic. This time it was Lewis Smith's turn to hit a hat-trick as the Reserves eased through by a 4-0 score-line. Jon Whitehead scored the team's fourth that day.

At the time of the trip to Enfield, the team were comfortably mid-table in Division 4, with 13 points from 7 games. With top scorer and eventual Golden Boot winner Lewis Smith in good form and with the team enjoying good cup runs in other competitions, including a 1-0 win over Division One side AC Sportsman Reserves, the team had high hopes of progressing.

The omens were bad from the start: the weather was cold and rainy and the trip was long. Bobby McGrath, who had the kit, got lost on the way and turned up just before kick-off. From the start the team were run into the ground and barely had a kick all morning. The final score was 6-0 to the home side, who contrived to miss a penalty and an open goal.

It really was a day to forget and the First Team will certainly have a score to settle when they visit AC Enfield in the Fifth Round of the Intermediate Cup on January 22nd 2012. Our Reserves and First Team have both come a long way since that December day—let's hope that AC Enfield haven't come quite so far.

December 17th 2006

Hertfordshire Junior Cup Round 4 AC Enfield vs. Lea Sports Pirton Reserves. Result 6-0

Team: Nick Baskerville, Jim Thomson, Bobby McGrath, Ashley Cooper, Ben Thomson, Paul Maclennan, Luke Day, Barry Roe, Jon Whitehead, Lewis Smith, Kieran Duff

Subs: Sam Masters, Ed Thomson

Manager: Ed Thomson



Great Start to 2012

Eight Wins from 10 Games on Jan 7/8

Vol. 6. No. 7, January 2012

The **Saturday** side ended 2011 still without a win under their belts after a 3-2 defeat in the Centenary Cup (for Division One teams) on December 31st. Facing the toughest possible First Round draw away to League Leaders Lidlington United Sports the lads did manage to take the tie to extra time with goals from James Awofisan and Danny Hardacre, but Lidlington took the tie with an extra-time winner.

The first weekend of 2012 brought a flood of wins, however, as eight of our ten sides in action recorded victories. Only the Under 8 Cougars, who lost a tough away fixture at Langford and—surprisingly—the Under 18s who drew at home to Bushmead, failed to secure all three points.

The first League game of 2012 brought the long-awaited first win for the **Saturday** side. Two goals from Haydn Fletcher and one each from Danny Hardacre and Mark Skidmore brought a welcome 4-0 win away at Meltis Albion and a much-needed three points. Earlier in the day, the Under 8s Pumas and Panthers resumed their league program—and it was just like they hadn't been away as the Panthers beat Bishops Stortford 1-0 thanks to a Ben Bayley goal and the Pumas won 5-3, with goals from Henry Brown (2), James Horn, Henry Huxley and a Town own goal.

The following day the **Sunday Firsts** faced Co-Op Sports in Pirton in the reversal of the fixtures from the first day of the season. Two goals from Mark Brown gave the home side a 2-0 advantage at half-time, but in the second half it looked as though the Christmas pudding was having an effect as we conceded a good deal of possession to Co-Op. In the end the visitors scrambled a late consolation goal and Lea Sports were relieved to run out 2-1 winners. Things were much more comfortable for the **Reserves** in their game away to lowly Flint United. Tom Newland scored twice and there were other goals from Jack Baggett, Greg Whelan and Jon Whitehead as we ran out 5-0 winners.

The Under Nines faced an awkward trip to Houghton Athletic and found themselves 2-0 down after a slow start. By half time they had pulled a goal back but were still 3-1 in arrears. In the second half, however, Ethan Wilson found his shooting boots and recorded a hat-trick as PSG ran out 4-3 winners—Tyger Cox scored the fourth.

Both **Under 14** teams had home games to start the year: in the Royston Crow Division 1 Sawbridgeworth Town were the visitors, while in the Chiltern Youth League we faced Eastcotts Eagles. Gianni Picone scored twice as Sawbridgeworth were defeated 4-3 (Jack Lammiman and Fabian Brown-Johnson with the other goals), while Ollie Pitts scored for the eighth game in nine as the lads won 1-0 to go top of Chiltern Youth Division 5.

The Under 18s had a disappointing day at home dropping 2 points to Bushmead Rovers. Warren Bell was on target in a 1-1 draw, but striker Ben Morris was booked.

Frost Returns on January 14th

A bout of chilly weather saw the postponement of the Panthers' & Pumas' matches vs. Melbourn; the Saturday adults just about beat the frost but easily beat opponents Meltis Albion in Pirton. Graham Clark and Mark Skidmore scored 1 each and Andrzej Juraszek 2 as Meltis were defeated 4-0 for the second week running



Under Fourteens Put Up a Fight in the League Cup

After an easy victory in the first round of the Royston Crow League Cup at Spartan Colts, the **Under Fourteens** faced a daunting task at home to Buntingford Cougars Blues in Round 2. The Blues have dominated proceedings in the league, winning all of their sixteen fixtures so far scoring 78 goals and conceding only 2, but they did not have things all their own way in Pirton in the frost on January 15th.

Despite taking an early lead, the visitors were pegged back by a goal from Fabian Brown-Johnson after 20 minutes and that's the way it stayed until late on in the game, when a good block by a PSG defender fell kindly for the Blues forward who made the score 2-1. With the home side pressing for the equaliser that would have taken the tie to extra time they were caught on the break in the last couple of minutes and the visitors ran out 3-1 winners. Despite the defeat Manager Jez Webb was very pleased with a great team performance against very strong opposition.

By contrast, the **Under Eighteens** had a stroll in the park away to Luton Borough in Division One. Sam Welbury grabbed a hat-trick, Warren Bell scored twice and Ryan Batty and Divesh Kumar once each in an 8-0 win. The final goal was scored by Ben Morris who came off the bench to round off a great afternoon.

Mixed Fortunes on Cup Sunday



January 22nd saw three of our teams in Cup action.

The **First XI** faced an awkward trip to AC Enfield in the Fifth Round of the Herts Intermediate Cup, but goals from Mark Brown and Gary Raymond saw them through to a Quarter-Final tie on February 19th.

The **Under Eighteens** also faced tough opponents Bishops Stortford in Pirton. The visitors were leading 1-0 when one of their players suffered a bad knee injury. An ambulance was called, but took well over an hour to arrive, by which time the referee had no choice but to abandon the match.

The **Under Nines** were playing their first-ever Cup match: at home to Flitwick Eagles Blues. Things went well early on and a terrific strike from Ethan Wilson into the roof of the net from a tight angle gave the home side the lead. Tyger Cox bundled in another goal to give PSG a 2-0 advantage at half-time. Flitwick came back strongly in the second half, however, and scored four times in the second period, including two deflected own-goals by home players as corners were driven into the box. Tyger Cox scored a late consolation, but the lads' first cup outing ended in a 3-4 defeat.

Draw Specialists Do It Again

In other results on January 21/22, the **Saturday** team ended up with their eighth league draw of the season: 2-2 away to AFC Kings. Ben Bayley was on target again but the **Panthers** went down 5-1 to Bishops Stortford. The **Pumas** also lost: 2-4 with goals from Oliver Scott and Thomas Brown. The **Reserves** lost 2-0 at Lilley while the **Under 14s** suffered a shock 1-3 home defeat to Hatfield in the Crow Division 1. In the Chiltern Youth Division 5 the **Under 14s** beat Oakley Rangers Tigers 2-0 (Abbott, Pitts). The Under 8s Cougars avenged their first day 5-0 defeat at Dunstable Town—Alex Matsukatov scoring the only goal of the game.



Under Eighteens Bow Out of the Cup, but Earn Plaudits

The replayed Herts County Cup tie between the **Under 18s** and Bishops Stortford brought disappointment on January 29th as the visitors ran out 4-1 winners. It could have been a different story had Warren Bell and Ben Morris made the most of one-on-one chances with the Stortford keeper, but in the end the home side only had a Warren Bell goal to show for their efforts.

After the injury the previous week to a Bishops Stortford player the Club received the following e-mail from the Bishops Stortford Manager:

*Our lad has just got home & has torn ligaments.
A big thanks for all your coaches who were excellent. Plus parents.
You are all a credit to football.*

Well done to all the Under 18s' players, staff and supporters.

The rearranged match meant that the **Reserves'** tie with Club Lewsey Reserves in the quarter-final of the Reserve Cup had to be switched to Lewsey Park. This made a difficult fixture even tougher and so it proved as Lewsey ran out 5-0 winners.

The Draw Specialists Do It Again

The final Saturday of the month brought the **Saturday team** its ninth league draw of the season as they missed a hatful of chances at home to Caldecote Reserves. The draw left Manager Cheesy Collins tearing his hair out (if he had any!) with frustration as his team missed a number of golden opportunities to wrap the game up. In the end, goals from Martin Collins and a left-foot effort from sub Matty Day were not enough to take 3 points as Caldecote scrambled a late equaliser.

Firsts Lift The Gloom

The **First Team** made it 3 wins out of 3 in January as 2 more goals from Mark Brown brought a well-deserved 2-0 victory away to CSFC on January 29th.

Meanwhile, in Pirton there was a glut of goals—unfortunately most of them in favour of the opposition. The **Under 9s** found the going tough against Caddington, going in at half-time 3-0 down. The second half brought a much-improved performance and more possession, but 2 more breakaway goals from Caddington gave them a 5-0 win. The **Under 8s Cougars** fared little better against AFC Dunstable with just a late Alex Matsukatov goal as consolation in a 5-1 defeat. The Under 18s were losing 4-1 to Bishops Stortford on the main pitch, before the **Under 14s** took on Biggleswade Town in the **Royston Crow** Division 1. Unfortunately the lads suffered their third 1-3 reverse in a row as they went down to Biggleswade Town. Sam Webb scored the consolation goal.

Bringing some cheer back to the Recreation Ground were the **Under 14s** playing in the **Chiltern Youth** League Division 5. They kept up their push for honours with a 3-1 win over Bedford Park Rangers Sabres—Ollie Pitts notched a hat-trick.

February brings some tough fixtures for all our teams: the Sunday Firsts host Sporting Club Offley before travelling to holders Nirankari in the Herts. Intermediate Cup. The Under 18s have an even tougher time with league games vs. St. Josephs, Crawley Green and Flitwick and a League Cup Quarter-Final away to league leaders Crawley Green.



County Cup Semi-Final For the Firsts

Quarter-Final Victory over Holders

Vol. 6. No. 8, February 2012

The Sunday First Team achieved one of the best results in the club's long forty-year history with a victory over Stevenage side Nirankari Timebridge in the Quarter Finals of the Hertfordshire Intermediate Cup.

The omens were not good before the game: Michael McMaugh pulled out at 8.30 on Sunday morning as he was having a conversation with the Bedfordshire Constabulary. This left the team with just 12 players—Manager Richard Randall having to name himself as the only substitute. The game itself also started badly for Lea Sports when they conceded a penalty after about five minutes. Fortunately the kick hit the post, but just five minutes later a poor back-pass from Paul Brown was punished and the home side went 1-0 up. After about 20 minutes, Lea Sports defender Steve Farkas found himself with no choice but to handle a goal-bound Nirankari shot. Not only was Steve shown a red card, but the penalty was converted to put the holders 2-0 up. The necessary re-shuffle at half-time brought immediate dividends when Knocky was brought down inside the box and Gary Raymond converted the spot kick to reduce the arrears.

With ten minutes to go Ritchie Bevan slotted home a free kick to make the game all-square. With extra time looming and just seconds to go Matty Day launched a long throw into the Nirankari box and an unfortunate defender headed the ball high into his own net. Nirankari are not used to losing and there was still time for one of their players to be dismissed before the final whistle and Lea Sports celebrations. The team now faces a Semi-Final in Pirton on March 19th vs. F.C.Town from the Hatfield area.

Reserves on the Wrong End of a Similar Fate

On the same day, February 19th, in Pirton the Reserves faced table-toppers Barnfield. The second team started well against a pushy aggressive Barnfield side and Simon Mayes bundled the ball home after good work by Greg Whelan on the left. Tom Newland also scored before half-time to give Lea Sports a 2-0 lead at the interval. Things started to go wrong in the second half, however, and Barnfield eventually ran out 4-2 winners, to inflict the Reserves' first home league defeat of the season.

Fat Animals With Curly Tails Sighted Over Pirton...

It was reported to me after the last Newsletter that one of the goals in the Reserves' recent 5-0 win over Flint United was scored by Greg Whelan with a HEADER!!

I have tried to corroborate this claim, but ex-manager Steve Baggett says that he wasn't even at the game as he had stayed at home to wash his hair that morning. Current Manager Paul Maclennan had been called away just as the goal was scored to help a little old lady cross a nearby road. The other players in the team had been distracted by an alien spacecraft landing on the adjacent pitch and the Referee says that he was unsighted and thought a sudden gust of wind had taken the ball into the net.



In the absence of any proof.....what do you believe??



Internet Security Tightened

We were reminded by the Hertfordshire FA this month that not only is it against FA regulations to publish the results of Under Eights matches on the website, but that it is also inadvisable to publish the forenames and surnames of children of that age. The protection of children, especially on the Internet, is of paramount importance not only to the Club, but to the County and National FA.

To this end, the FA has teamed up with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre, to help assist families keep up with their children online and keep them safe.



Top tips for parents and carers are:

- Know what your children are doing online and who they are talking to. Ask them to teach you to use any applications you have never used, such as a social networking site or online chat rooms
- Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends - personal information includes their instant messenger id, email address, mobile phone number and any pictures of themselves, their family or friends -if your child publishes a picture or video online – anyone can change it or share it and it may be online forever
- If your child receives SPAM/ junk email and texts remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them
- It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain – it could be a virus or worse. Help your child to understand that some people may not tell the truth online and therefore internet friends should remain online. They should never meet up with any strangers in the real world without an adult they trust being present.
- Always make sure your child feels comfortable in being able to come to you or someone they trust if they are worried about anything online. Teach young people how to block someone online and report them if they feel uncomfortable. Most sites will have guidance on this and any reports can be made directly to the CEOP Centre via

www.ceop.police.uk.

For more information visit the www.thinkuknow.co.uk website.

Lea Sports PSG will no longer publish the surnames of any Under 8 player—goalscorers and match reports will only contain the child's forename and the initial of the surname. We are also often asked about the taking of photos and videos at matches: there is now a link on the Lea Sports website to the FA's Photography Guidelines—click the button on the right-hand side of the index page.

If you are concerned in any way about the security of young players, whether online or at matches, please approach the Club Welfare Officer Anne Horn (cwo@lpspg.co.uk), Head of Youth Football Phil Toyer (youth@lpspg.co.uk), the relevant Team Manager, or Club Secretary Steve Smith (secretary@lpspg.co.uk).

Please be vigilant and help keep our children safe.



Yet Another Draw for the Saturdays

As the frost relented on February 18th, the Saturday team had high hopes of taking all three points from the visit of Luton Boys to Pirton. The hopes were strengthened when Dion Brown fired them into a first-half lead. But, with the weather worsening and driving rain sweeping across the park, the home side lost their way and turned around at half time trailing by two goals to one. The second half saw an improvement in the weather and in the home side's fortunes: top striker James Awofisan's younger brother came on to make his debut when Mark Skidmore picked up an injury and it was his sweet volley which gave Lea Sports a share of the spoils. It was the team's tenth league draw and the third 2-2 result in a row.

No Unlucky 13 for Ollie...

No triskaidekaphobia for Ollie Pitts (look it up!) as he scored in his thirteenth consecutive appearance for the Under Fourteens in the Chiltern Youth League Division 5 on February 19th. The lads made it seven wins on the trot as they demolished Dunstable Town Icknield Panthers by four goals to nil. Max Burrows weighed in with a hat-trick before Ollie kept his great run going, while at the other end of the pitch Josh Dell made an amazing late save to keep a clean sheet.

The Royston Crow team would be grateful for some of Ollie's goals as they went down 2-0 on their tough trip to St. Neots Town Whites in Division 1.



February Ends.....

On the final Saturday in February the **Panthers and Pumas** came up against tough opposition in Biggleswade: Tom B. and Sam G. managed to score for the Pumas but the Panthers drew a blank. The **Saturday team**, meanwhile, managed their eleventh league draw of the season as Dion Brown levelled matters against Meppershall. Sunday morning brought 2 wins in Pirton: the **First Team** beat 61 FC 3-2, despite having Michael McMaugh sent off in the second half (goals from Ben Alderton, Gary Raymond and Andy Van Hoof), and two goals from Alex Matsukatov gave the **Under 8s Cougars** victory over a physical Markyate side. For the **Reserves**, a Ben Thomson goal was not enough as they lost their penultimate away game 1-2 to AC Cadoza Res. In the Royston Crow League the Under 14s enjoyed their trip to Letchworth Whites winning 6-0 with 4 goals from Fabian Brown-Johnson and one each from Tom Morris-Pond and Jack Lammiman. The Chiltern Youth League Under 14s lost for the first time in 8 games as a strike from Thowhid Sobhani was not enough in a 2-1 defeat.

ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING—MAY 19th 2012



Lea Sports PSG's Annual Awards Evening will take place this year at the Clubhouse in Pirton on Saturday May 19th 2012.

Exact timings are yet to be finalised and will be advertised nearer the time, but keep the date free.

There may also be a match between the Sunday First team and the Under Eighteens and possibly other games before the awards ceremony itself, so look out for details nearer the time.



'Mensis Horribilis' For the Under Eighteens

The snow caused more pain to the Under Eighteens than just a couple of postponed matches, as their goalkeeper Harry Wallace broke his collarbone while out sledging. This meant that for their Chiltern Youth League Cup Quarter-Final away to league leaders Crawley Green on February 19th their top striker Ben Morris had to play in goal.

Although Ben put in a star performance between the sticks, his fire-power was sorely missed up front. Add to that a couple of injuries picked up during the game which meant that the team finished with just 10 men, after starting with two substitutes and it was no surprise that the lads ended up losing 6-0. With no game before the visit of Sacred Heart to Pirton on March 4th, Manager Stuart Wallace is hoping to sign a new keeper in the next few days.

April Football Coaching for 5-11 Year Olds

Head of Youth Football Phil Toyer will be holding coaching sessions in Pirton for children between the ages of five and eleven in early April.

See the attached flyer for more details, but basically the courses are on April 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th between 10 am and 2 pm.

Prices and full details are in the flyer, or contact Phil direct on 01462 711211. E-mail: youth@lpspg.co.uk.



DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SPORT

Football+ coaching

4th and 5th of April
11th and 12th of April

Phil Toyer



T:01462 711211
E: toyers3@aol.com



Affiliated to Lea Sports PSG Football Club Pirton

Beds Mini-Soccer League Semi-Finals in Pirton

This year we have agreed to host the semi-finals for the Beds Mini-Soccer League on Sunday March 26th. We could use some volunteers to manage car parking, put goals up, etc, but especially to help out in the kitchen, where we expect to make a healthy profit on the day.

The event will run for the morning only, with 3 games at 10.30 and 3 at mid-day. If you can help in any way, please let me know: secretary@lpspg.co.uk.

Thanks, Steve.

All the latest results and fixtures on the website at

www.leasports.com



Cup Final Just Out of Reach

Semi-Final Defeat on Penalties

Vol. 6. No. 9, March 2012

Lea Sports' Sunday First Team fell just short in their attempt to reach the Hertfordshire Intermediate Cup Final. Playing at home to FC Town, from Hatfield, on March 18th goals were very hard to come by—even when Gary Raymond did manage to get the ball in the net the goal was disallowed for offside. Although both sides had chances to win the game, in the main defences were in command and it was no surprise when the game went into extra time. After 120 minutes there was still a blank scoresheet and the game went to penalties. FC Town went first and scored confidently, followed by an emphatic penalty from Titch Bevan. After Town's successful second kick, Mark Brown's attempt was well saved by the Town keeper. Paul Brown and Gary Raymond were both successful, which left the Town keeper and Captain to take the fifth and deciding penalty. Although Scott Morgan parried the kick, the ball cruelly spun onto the post and back onto Scott before nestling in the corner of the net to take FC Town through 5-3.

Lea Sports' Woeful Shoot-Out Record Continues

Lea Sports PSG's record in penalty shoot-outs is about as good as England's...

The defeat against FC Town was the First Team's second exit on penalties this season, after their defeat to Luton Old Boys in the Senior Trophy. On that occasion Mark Brown was the only player to score, as we crashed out 4-1.



The previous shoot-out for the Firsts was in December 2000, when they were at home to Bengo Working Men's Club in the Herts Junior Cup Round 4. In that season, which failed to complete because of the dreadful rain all year, Steve Baggett's team drew with Bengo 6-6 after extra time before going out 4-5 on penalties (Phil Thompson scored 5 of the 10 goals that day).

The Reserves' only penalty shoot-out was in the 1994-95 season, when Laurence Freed's 'Invincibles' were Champions of Division 5 and reached the final of the Centenary Cup. Because many of the team also played for the Saturday side, and because of a fixture pile-up caused by their success, for some of the players this was their tenth game in two weeks and after 120 minutes against the Rising Sun from Potton, neither side had scored. Each team then scored 4 of their five penalties to take the game to sudden-death. Alex Houghton, who was a student at Luton University, admitted to me a few minutes before he stepped up to the spot that he had never taken a penalty in a competitive match before—and sure enough he put his kick over the bar to give the Cup to Rising Sun.

The Saturday team's only shoot-out came earlier this season, when they lost to St. Josephs in the Beds Intermediate Cup—St. Joe's are now in the Final.

The first shoot-out for the youth teams came in May 2002. Godfrey Knock's Under 16s were given no chance in the Royston Crow League Cup Final against Champions and County Cup Winners Stevenage Colts. However deep into extra time we found ourselves 4-3 up before bowing to constant Stevenage pressure and conceding a late equaliser. Top scorer Ben L'Honoré stepped up to take the first penalty—and put it wide. We lost 3-2. In November 2007, the Under 16s under Mark Hill, drew 0-0 with Watling in the Chiltern Youth League Cup before losing 4-1 on penalties.

In fact, the only 2 successful shoot-outs were the Under 17s vs. Flitwick Eagles on 10.10.10 in the Beds County Cup after a 2-2 draw and this season's victory over Westoning for Mahesh Bharwaney's Under 14s, after a 3-3 draw in normal time.



The Month Begins With a Sweet Hat-Trick

March's fixtures began in fine weather on March 3rd with a hat-trick of wins as the Saturday team picked up all three points in a difficult away game at Sandy and the Under Eights Panthers and Pumas got the better of Melbourn Dynamos.

The Saturday team, who couldn't manage a league win before Christmas, are now unbeaten in 2012 as goals from Dion Brown and Martin Collins brought a great 2-1 win away at fifth-placed Sandy. Meanwhile the Under 8s enjoyed their games against Melbourn—Ben B. scored a hat-trick for the Panthers, while for the Pumas Tom B., Frank H. and Teddy R-T. were all on target to get the month off to a great start.

The weather on the following day couldn't have been more different as a heavy rain persisted throughout the day. The mini-soccer teams found the going tough in the dreary conditions and the Under Nines in their last home league game were on the wrong end of a 6-1 scoreline against AFC Kempston. Without their two top strikers the forwards never got going in the mud and even the goal we did score was a Kempston own goal. It was a similar story for the Under Eights Cougars against a big Langford side, although Alex M. did keep up his scoring record with another two well-taken goals.

Meanwhile, our adult sides made light work of the horrible conditions. The First Team kept up their good form with a 5-2 win away to AC Sportsman Reserves. Gary Raymond scored four times in the rout, with Danny Davis notching the fifth. The Reserves looked to be struggling against bogey team Lilley Rangers and found themselves 2-1 down as the game moved into its final stages. However a sweet strike from Greg Whelan made the game level and with just two minutes to go, Jamie Richards popped up with a tremendous free kick into the top corner to record a 3-2 win.

If anything, the weather worsened on Sunday afternoon as the incessant rain turned to sleet and snow, but the conditions did not deter the Under Fourteens who kept up their bid for honours in the Chiltern Youth Division 5 with a 4-2 home win over Houghton Athletic. Ollie Pitts scored another two goals, while Max Burrows also scored and Joe Abbott scored his second goal of the campaign. Another player scoring 4 times in the awful conditions was Warren Bell as the Under 18s overcame Sacred Heart 7-2. The other scorers were Aaron Higginson, Matt Howard and James Miley. The following week, the Under Eighteens did not enjoy March Eighteenth as they lost their second league game of the season, 4-0 on their trip to Flitwick Eagles.

Under Eights' Good Form Continues

The Pumas and Panthers kept up their good recent record as both teams went unbeaten on their trip to Ashwell Academicals on March 10th. Ben B. kept up his good scoring form with a goal for the Panthers, while for the Pumas Edward L. was on target and Teddy R-T. scored twice.

Meanwhile, on Sunday morning, the Cougars played the fourth of five consecutive home fixtures. Against Leighton United Blues the lads put in a tremendous performance, none more so than Joel T. who brought off some great saves in goal.

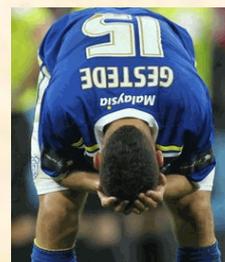


Cup Updates

In the Hertfordshire Under 18 County Cup, BSFC, who knocked our Under 18s out of the competition, won their quarter-final with London Maccabi Lions 1-0, but lost the semi-final vs. Ware 1-0. (BSFC's Under 17 side won 1-0 in the other semi-final).

Cheshunt Town, who knocked the Reserves out of the Sunday Junior Cup, faced The Bell at home in the Quarter Finals. The match was tied at 2-2 going into extra time, but after the additional 30 minutes The Bell emerged as winners 8-2...

For the Saturday team the story is a really disappointing one. As holders of the Junior Cup, this was their first foray into the Intermediate Cup following promotion last season. In one of only four games in the First Round we were drawn away to St. Josephs (Saturday) - the teams could not be separated after 120 minutes football and we eventually lost 2-1 on penalties. It turns out that the penalty scored by Sam Luciano is the only goal that St. Joe's have conceded in the whole competition. In Round 2 they beat holders AFC Dunstable by a goal to nil; in Round 3 they defeated Totternhoe 5-0, then saw off FC Meppershall 4-0 in the Quarter-Final. A 1-0 semi-final win over Crawley Green booked them a place in the final against Real FNE on April 18th.



Sometimes it's a fine line....

Plaudits for the First Team



In the filthy weather conditions on March 4th, our First Team played an important league match in Hexton vs. AC Sportsman Reserves. Despite the significance of the game, both teams managed to conduct themselves in a sporting manner.

The referee, Tom Danaher, sent a report to the North Home Counties League saying the following:

I had AC Sportsman Reserves vs. Lea Sports PSG today in Division 1 and it was an absolute pleasure to referee. Both teams were friendly, co-operative and showed faultless sportsmanship to one another. Referees are sometimes quick to get in touch with the committee when things go badly, but I think teams should be commended when they make our job enjoyable, as it should be! They were a credit to the League.

Well done to the players for setting an example to the rest of the Club.

Sunday March 25th Brings Two Important 2-1 Wins

The First Team travelled to Silsoe Park Rangers and brought home all 3 points thanks to goals from brothers Paul and Mark Brown. In the afternoon it was the Under 18s' turn as they entertained second placed St. Josephs. Goals from Richard Bailey and Ben Morris brought another 2-1 win. Elsewhere, the Under 14s suffered mixed fortunes: a goal from Gianni Picone was not enough in the Royston Crow League as the lads went down 3-1 at Sawbridgeworth, while the CY team were goalless at Oakley Rangers.



Saturdays ...

March 10th saw the Saturday team go eight matches unbeaten since the turn of the year, with a 2-0 win over bottom side Westoning Recreation Club. Dion Brown scored for the fourth match in a row and Ian Hyde wrapped up the points. On St. Patrick's Day the team entertained Kings AFC, with whom they had shared 4 goals earlier in the season. Despite going a goal down in the first half, two goals from Andrzej Juraszek seemed to have given us all three points, but with 2 minutes to go Kings snatched an equaliser and it was yet another draw. On March 24th the team travelled to Luton Boys and broke the run of draws with an excellent 3-0 win. On target were Martin Collins with 2 goals and Ryan Coote with 1. With the postponement of the Under 8s' fixtures at Stotfold on March 31st, it was left to the Saturdays to round off the month with a trip to Westoning. Two goals from Ian Hyde meant that the team maintained its unbeaten record in 2012 with a 2-1 win.

Sunshine Returns to Pirton—Sunday March 11th

At Pirton the sun shone and so did both teams playing at home. The **Under 8s Cougars** had much the better of it against Leighton United Blues and Alex M. scored 2 more goals with Luke W. scoring a third.

The **First Team**, meanwhile, recorded a routine 2-1 win over CSFC. Paul Brown was delighted to score his first goal of the season and Gary Raymond added a second to give the lads a 2-0 half-time advantage. In the second half we took our foot off the gas, but were still good enough to take all three points. The **Reserves** found themselves 2-0 down at half-time on their trip to Hexton. But second-half goals from Tyrone Carter, Ben Thomson and Simon Mayes brought us a 3-2 win and 3 points.

Having walloped Letchworth Whites 6-0 in their last game in the **Royston Crow**, the **Under 14s** came up against Letchworth Blues on Sunday afternoon—and ended up on the wrong end of a 7-0 scoreline. Meanwhile in the **Chiltern Youth** league the **Under 14s** put in a terrific performance away to Leighton United Blues and two goals from Ollie Pitts earned the lads a fighting 2-2 draw.

The **Under 18s** recorded their second 7-2 home win in a row—this time over Dunstable Town and in much better weather! Warren Bell scored a hat-trick and other goals came from Ryan Batty and sub Richard Bailey. Ben Morris scored a penalty and Dunstable scored an own goal.

Elsewhere, the **Under 9s** bounced back from last week's home defeat and in their penultimate match recorded a fine 5-0 win away to Mid-Beds Tigers. Finn Norrington scored twice and other goals came from Barney Condon, Ethan Wilson and an o.g.

Mixed Fortunes on Paddy's Day for the Under Eights

The Under Eights managed one win and one defeat in their home games against Baldock on March 17th. For the Panthers Tom B. was on target again, along with Matthew M., whereas for the Pumas goals came from Henry H., Oliver S. and Luke S.. Meanwhile on Sunday the Cougars put in another strong performance against Dunstable Town Greens, with Joel T. having another cracking game in goal. On March 24th the Pumas and Panthers were again victorious away to Shefford Saints: on target were Tom B., Ben B., Liam B., Edward L. (2) and an own goal. The Cougars followed their example a day later with another goal from Alex M. and a brace from Luke W..



Under Fourteens Fight For Honours

In the Chiltern Youth League Division 5 Mahesh's Under Fourteens are engaged in a desperate fight for honours at the top of the table.

Their nearest rivals are Langford Lions, who were beaten at Pirton earlier in the season, but gained revenge in the return fixture on February 26th. The third match between the teams will be in Langford on Sunday April 29th and could be the title decider, although Langford still have to play Leighton twice.

On March 18th we entertained Oakley Rangers Tigers, who had snatched a surprise 2-1 win in Pirton in late November. This time there was no mistake and with Dave Aery making his debut the lads strolled to a 7-0 win. Chris Davies scored the best goal of the game and other scores came from Max Burrows (2), Sam French, Simon Gaitan and Ollie Pitts with 2 more to take his tally to 25 for the season.

One week later and the team travelled to Oakley Rangers and came home with a point after a goalless draw against the team in third spot.

Remaining fixtures: April 15 Oakley Rangers (A), April 26 Dunstable Town (H), April 29 Langford Lions (A), May 06 Leighton United (A).

Golden Boots—One Month to Go...

(Up to April 2nd)

With just a month of the season left, the race for the Golden Boot—awarded to the top goalscorer in an 11-a-side team—is as close as ever.

The First XI have 4 games left, as do the Chiltern Youth Under 14s, while the Under 18s have 3 games left...

First XI

Gary Raymond 21
Ritchie Bevan 16

Second XI

Tom Newland 14
Simon Mayes 8

Saturday XI

Danny Hardacre 8
Dion Brown 5

Under 18

Warren Bell 31
Ben Morris 16

Under 14 RC

Fabian Brown-Johnson 13
Tom Morris-Pond 8

Under 14 CY

Ollie Pitts 29
Max Burrows 12

Last Year's Winner in the Lead in the Mini Boot Race

Last year's joint winner of the Mini Golden Boot, for our seven-a-side teams, Ben B., is in pole position again for this year's award, having scored 21 goals for the Under Eights on Saturdays. He is being closely pursued by Alex M., who currently has 18 goals for the Under 8s Cougars, and by Ethan Wilson, who has 18 for the Under 9s.

Under 9

Ethan Wilson 18
Tyger C. 6

Under 8 Panthers

Ben B. 11
Tom B. 8

Under 8 Pumas

Ben B. 10
Tom B. 6

Under 8 Cougars

Alex M. 18
Luke W. 8

All the latest results and fixtures on the website at www.leasports.com

We are not allowed to disclose results or give full player names for Under Eights teams.



Beds Mini-Soccer Semi-Finals Hosted Successfully

On March 25th the Club successfully hosted semi-finals for the Beds Mini-Soccer League Cups at Under 9, Under 10 and Under 11s. This involved the marking out of two additional seven-a-side pitches and a major effort by volunteers in directing the 100+ cars which squeezed into the Recreation Ground and in providing catering for everyone attending.

The Club would like to thank Clare Pipe, Lizzie Bayley, Catherine Scott and Ann Frost for manning the kitchen and earning the Club a profit of £185.30. Thanks also to Chairman Phil Toyer and Alan Scott for putting up goals, erecting Respect barriers, directing traffic and clearing up afterwards. Thanks also to Jez Webb for coming along after his match at Sawbridgeworth to help in clearing up. Without the massive contributions from these volunteers the Club could not have hosted the event and made the profit that it did. The whole Club should be grateful to them.

LATEST PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION RESULTS AT

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

No Fooling as April Starts with 5 Wins Out of 6

April First was a day for the contenders for the Golden Boot and Mini Golden Boot to show their credentials, with most of the main challengers on the scoresheet.

The **Under Nines** completed their league program with an impressive 5-3 victory away to Dunstable Town, which secures fifth spot in the table. Not only that, but Ethan Wilson grabbed all five goals, including 3 from corners, to take his tally for the season to 18.

In Pirton the joke was very nearly on the **Reserves** as they took on bottom-placed Flint United. Despite dominating the first half and having two goals disallowed for offside, the team found themselves 2-1 down with 20 minutes to go, with only a Ben Thomson penalty to show for their efforts. Manager Paul Maclennan decided to change things around and brought on substitute Jamie Richards in midfield. Twenty minutes later the referee blew the final whistle and we had emerged as 6-2 winners: Jack Baggett scored, Tom Newland grabbed two before Ben Thomson completed his first-ever hat-trick.

At the same time the **Under Eights Cougars** took on Mid-Beds Tigers Reds, playing 5 vs.5 as the Tigers were short of players. Goals from Matthew E., Alex M. and Oliver M. brought the lads victory in their final home game of the season.

In the Royston Crow Division 1, two goals from Sam Webb were not enough to save the **Under 14s** from their third successive defeat: 2-3 to Stotfold Juniors. By contrast, in the Chiltern Youth league the **Under 14s** scored nine without reply vs. Eastcotts Eagles. Not content with his 2 goals in the morning, Sam Webb scored again in the afternoon and other goals came from Joe Abbott, Simon Gaitan, Ben Whitehead (2) and four more for top scorer Ollie Pitts to take him to 29 goals for the season.

Meanwhile, in their battle for the runners-up spot in Division One, the **Under Eighteens** hit twelve without reply on their trip to Watling. Staking his claim for the Golden Boot was Warren Bell, who scored 5 times, while Lewis Crosby, Mickey Bygraves and Tom Payne all scored their first goal of the season. Also on target were James Miley with 2, Matt Howard and Ryan Batty, to leave the team in second place with 33 points.

A.G.M. The Club has announced this year's AGM date as **Monday May 28th at 8.00 p.m.** at the Clubhouse in Pirton. There will be some discussion of changes to adult subscriptions. All welcome—please come along.



THE RACE FOR HONOURS

Vol. 6. No. 10, April 2012

The First XI and Under Eighteens were both trying to finish as Runners-Up in their respective divisions, but both lost by a single goal to the team in the race with them, so will finish in 3rd or 3rd/4th respectively. For the Under 14s, the battle for honours will run into May.

It's Day's Night as Matt Puts the Gloss on Another Win

Thursday April 12th. Sunday First XI - 2 Stopsley Common - 1

The Sunday First XI began their April fixtures with a midweek clash with Stopsley Common in Pirton. On paper this looked to be the easiest of their last four games: Stopsley were second bottom of the table with a -44 goal difference and we had already beaten them 5-0 away earlier in the season. Everything looked to be going to plan when after 20 minutes Richard Randall beat the opposing keeper to a cross and headed us 1-0 up. However, despite having the lion's share of possession, we could not add to the lead and Stopsley began to enjoy their last league game. With about 8 minutes left on the clock and the Rec getting darker by the minute, the Referee adjudged that goalscorer Randall was the villain of the piece and gave a penalty against him for handball. Rich's protests merely earned him a booking and it looked as though Stopsley were going to steal a point as the spot kick was despatched. With the clock ticking past 8 o'clock and players having difficulty seeing their own feet in the gloom, Lea Sports launched a series of desperate attacks in the search for all 3 points. Finally, from a corner the ball was swung low to the edge of the box and Matt Day hit the sweetest of volleys with the last kick of the game to spark wild celebrations and win the game 2-1 for our tenth league win in succession.

The Run Ends as Offley Take All Three Points

Sunday April 15th. Sunday First XI - 1 Sporting Club Offley - 2

Lea Sports' run of 10 league wins came to an end as a team missing Richard Randall, Danny Davis and Titch Bevan failed to get going against a strong Offley side in the race for the runners-up spot. In a tight game Offley took the lead from a second-half corner before Gary Raymond brought us level after a great run from Jamie Richards. We couldn't hold on to a point, however, as Offley resumed their lead, again from a corner, to look favourites for second place.

Back to Winning Ways on April 22nd

Sunday April 22nd. Luton Old Boys - 1 Sunday First XI - 5

Lea Sports enjoyed themselves in their final away fixture of this season, with a 5-1 win at Chaul End against Luton Old Boys. Ritchie Bevan marked his return to the team with a goal and Mark Brown scored another two. Old Boys scored an own goal and even coach Richard Masters got his name on the scoresheet. However, with Offley beating Lewsey Reserves the team finish in 3rd.

Lewsey Pinch a Draw in the Final Game

Sunday April 29th. Sunday First XI - 3 Club Lewsey Reserves - 3

In atrocious conditions in Pirton on April 29th Club Lewsey Reserves grabbed a draw with a penalty from the last kick of the game, as their forward admitted he had 'done an Ashley Young'. Both teams tried to play football in the cold, stinging rain and it was the home side who had the better of the early exchanges before Lewsey went ahead against the run of play after 25 minutes. Mark Brown was put through to lift the ball over the keeper 10 minutes later to level things at half time. After 15 minutes of the 2nd half Brown scored again with the referee over-ruling the Lewsey linesman's offside flag. With 25 minutes to go Steve Farkas scored an own-goal (and the 1800th league goal conceded by the First XI since 1973) as defenders struggled in the wet conditions, but the lead was restored almost immediately as Titch Bevan fired past the Lewsey keeper. That was how it stayed until the dying seconds, when goalkeeper Scott Morgan parried a shot and was then adjudged to have brought down the forward who was following the shot in.



THE RACE FOR HONOURS

Under Eighteens and Fourteens Battle April Showers

On Sunday April 15th the Under Eighteens and the Under Fourteens again endured the worst of the weather as cold rain and hail showers interrupted their games.

Sunday April 15th. Under Eighteens - 8 Westoning Recreation Club - 3

The U18s were at home to Westoning and didn't let the weather throw them out of their stride as they won 8-3. Sam Welbury scored a hat trick and there were further goals from Matt Howard, Ben Morris and Simon Prue, while Ryan Batty and Warren Bell both came off the bench to score.

Sunday April 15th. Oakley Rangers - 2 Under Fourteens - 3

The U14s were involved in their third game vs. Oakley Rangers in the Chiltern Youth Division 5. Having had a narrow 3-2 win at home and a 0-0 draw away earlier in the season, the lads knew this would be a tough task. At half time they found themselves 2-1 down, with the prospect of playing against the wind and hail in the second half. But they stuck manfully to their task and in the end two goals from Max Burrows, including a last-minute strike, and one from Sam Webb brought a 3-2 win to keep the pressure on Langford at the top of the table.

Under Eighteens' Day Out in Baldock

Sunday April 22nd. Under Eighteens - 3 Flitwick Eagles - 4

Because of a scheduled cricket fixture in Pirton on April 22nd, the Under Eighteens had to switch their home game with Flitwick Eagles to the AstroTurf pitch at The Arena in Norton Road in Baldock. (Needless to say, the cricket was called off because of April showers—didn't see that one coming!!). In a highly entertaining, but ultimately disappointing game, the lads went down 4-3, despite goals from Ben Morris, Simon Prue and Sam Welbury. The result means that the team need to take a point from their last game at home to Champions Crawley to share third place with St. Josephs.

Under Fourteens Keep Up The Pressure

Thursday April 26th. Under Fourteens - 6 Dunstable Town Icknield B - 1

In the Chiltern Youth league the Under 14s played their last home fixture on Thursday April 26th and put six past Dunstable Town to keep up the pressure on Langford at the top. Goals came from Chris Davies, Finn McKeown, Ben Whitehead and a hat-trick from Ollie Pitts to take his total to 32 for the season, level with Warren Bell from the Under 18s, who have probably completed their fixtures, since their final game vs. Crawley Green may not go ahead.

Runner Up Spot Looks Likely

Sunday April 29th. Langford Lions - 1 Under Fourteens - 0

On a day of some awful weather, the Under 14s received no favours from the referee as they went down 1-0 in the title decider in the Chiltern Youth Division 5. Langford only needed to avoid defeat in the third meeting between the clubs and with home advantage in their favour got the win that assures them of the title. With one game left away to Leighton United, Lea Sports still look favourites for 2nd place.



*** IMPORTANT DIARY DATES ***

Sunday May 13th in Pirton: PHIL THOMPSON MATCH (10.30 ko)

All vets, former players, hangers-on—in fact, anyone who knows Phil Thompson—is welcome for this light-hearted game (!!) in Pirton at 10.30 on Sunday May 13th.

Saturday May 19th in Pirton: ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

Under 18s vs. First XI at 4 pm. Presentations will start at 5.15 with the Under 8 Panthers and Pumas and then move up through the age groups (15 minutes each). If we over-run the adult awards may be after the Champions League Final. Food will be pizzas ordered in on the day.

Monday May 28th in Pirton: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (8 pm)

If you're interested in how the Club is run, or how much you pay in match fees, or if you want to join the Committee (you know you do...) then come along to the AGM on Monday May 28th at 8 pm at the Clubhouse in Pirton. Remember, if you don't come along and vote, you have no right to complain if we make changes you don't like....

Saturdays' Unbeaten Run Ends

The Saturday team lost their first game of 2012 as they came up against League leaders Ickwell and Old Warden in Pirton on April 14th. Despite the home side having a few chances, Ickwell always looked the stronger side and strengthened their position at the top of the table with a 3-0 win.

The lads' final away game of the season was on April 21st at AFC Kempston Town and Bedford College Reserves. When the teams met in Pirton earlier this season they shared six goals; there were six goals again today, but this time five of them were scored by Lea Sports with only a solitary Kempston goal in reply. Scorers for Lea Sports were Martin Collins with a hat-trick and Danny Hardacre with the other two.

The season finished with a midweek home game against the league Runners-up on April 25th. We had the best of the opening 20 minutes against Bedford SA, but then midfield general Mark Skidmore was sent off following a comment made to the Bedford linesman after a dubious off-side decision. The dismissal swung the game in the visitors' favour and they went in at half-time with a 3-0 lead which was barely deserved. After the break the home side rallied and brought the game back to 3-2, but Bedford stole a fourth goal to seal the game 4-2.

The result left the team with 7 wins and 12 draws from the 25 league games actually played (we conceded one game), so a solid start to the team's life in Division One.

Reserves Finish Off In Some Style

The Reserves had a few players away at the London Marathon, but those who were left just didn't get going in their penultimate home game on April 22nd against Peguform Icknield. The visitors never looked in any trouble and ran out 6-0 winners in a game our lads will want to forget. The result means that the team will finish fifth in Division 3.

The final game was a home fixture with St. Josephs Reserves on April 26th. With almost a full squad, apart from Greg Whelan and Simon Mayes, the team looked more like their old self and played some excellent football in an entertaining match. After a goal-less first half, Jamie Richards broke the deadlock with a fierce shot on the hour. The second was even better as Ben Thomson chipped a shot high over the Joe's keeper into the top corner. Although the visitors got one back, it was a fine winning goal to finish off a good season for the Reserves. Final score 2-1.



Panthers and Pumas In Fine Form

The Under Eights Panthers and Pumas played their penultimate home games on April 14th, when they entertained Wymondley Park A & B. Ben B. scored twice and Oliver S. was on the mark for the Panthers as they were victorious in their game. The Pumas also ran out winners, with Max C. grabbing his first goal of the season, along with other strikes from James H., Henry H. (2) and Edward L.

On April 21st the lads made the trip to Melbourn to take on the Dynamos and again both teams were unbeaten. For the Panthers Liam B. scored twice; also on target were Tom B. and Oliver S., while Sam G. grabbed a brace for the Pumas.

On a filthy morning at the end of April both teams made light of the conditions on their trip to Bassingbourn. There were goals aplenty: for the Panthers Ben B. scored 2 and other goals came from Sam G., Henry H., Oliver S. and Sam T., while for the Pumas the scorers were Liam B. (2), Max C., Sam G., Edward L and a hat-trick from Teddy R-T. The teams have two fixtures left each in May, home to Potton on Saturday 5th and finally away to Stotfold on Saturday 19th.

Cougars Also In Winning Ways

The Under Eights Cougars started the month in fine style with a victory over Mid-Beds Tigers on April 1st, followed by a win on their trip to Markyate on April 22nd. Alex M. and Luke W. were both on the scoresheet yet again as the lads came from behind to win. Joel T. in goal and Theo J. in defence had outstanding games. Alex M. and Luke W. were both on the scoresheet again as the Cougars completed their fixtures with a friendly win over Mid Beds Tigers Orange.



COME AND WATCH THE EURO 2012 GAMES AT THE CLUBHOUSE IN PIRTON

We will be showing all the England games in Euro 2012 at the Clubhouse in Pirton. Why not come along and have a drink and watch the action? (Doors open one hour before kick-off).

Monday June 11

France  18.00  England
Referee: TBD – Stadium: Donbass Arena, Donetsk (UKR)

Friday June 15

Sweden  20.45  England
Referee: TBD – Stadium: Olympic Stadium, Kyiv (UKR)

Tuesday June 19

England  20.45  Ukraine
Referee: TBD – Stadium: Donbass Arena, Donetsk (UKR)

In the unlikely event that England have any more matches in the tournament, we will be open for every one..... :-)



Stevenage Training Session a Great Success

STEVENAGE LEGENDS BACK LEA SPORTS

Stevenage legends Paul Fairclough and Sam Sodje showed their support for Hertfordshire-based youth team Lea Sports P.S.G FC under-14s by running an exclusive training session on Tuesday (17 April) evening.



Held by the Sodje Sport Foundation (SSF), an initiative run by the famous sporting Sodje brothers to create educational opportunities for youngsters in Nigeria and England, and Kick It Out, football's equality and inclusion campaign, the event saw England C boss Paul put the young squad through their paces, with Notts County defender Sam casting his eye over proceedings.

Paul, who famously led Stevenage to historic FA Cup ties against Birmingham City and Newcastle United during the late 90s, and Sam, a current Nigeria international, then took part in a Q&A session. Quizzed by the Lea Sports players and coaches, they both talked about their time in the non-league game, and discussed the different experiences they've had at international level.

Reflecting on the training session, Paul commented: "Everybody at Lea Sports should be extremely proud of the set up they have. All of the players were very responsive and took on board the advice I passed on. It was a pleasure working with such a tight-knit group, and I wish them the very best of luck for the rest of the season."



The event concluded with Lea Sports president Steve Smith and manager Jez Webb presenting Steve Sodje, a former non-league footballer and the SSF's founder, and Sam with a host of unused kit and boots, which will now be shipped out to Nigeria.



On receiving the items, Sam said: "The boys at Lea Sports showed a really positive attitude throughout the training session, and were very bright during the Q&A session. The SSF is glad to show its support for the team, and we can't thank them enough for the kit they've donated to us."

See more at:

http://www.kickitout.org/news.php/news_id/5455

After their extra coaching the boys lost 2-0 away to Royston Celtic Whites on April 22nd, but bounced back with two goals from Tom Morris-Pond to beat Walkern Youth on Wednesday April 25th. The season concludes with tough trips to Biggleswade and Buntingford before a final game at home to Bishops Stortford Town on May 13th.



Awards Night

A Busy Night at the Rec!

Vol. 6. No. 11, May 2012

The presentations of the annual awards for all of our teams took place at the Clubhouse in Pirton on Saturday May 19th 2012. With ten teams present it was a busy night and although it didn't rain, the chilly conditions made for a pretty crowded clubhouse as people struggled to stay warm.

Nevertheless, anyone present (who wasn't a Spurs fan) enjoyed the evening, with a good crowd staying on to watch Chelsea lift the Champions League trophy.

Next year is the Club's 40th Anniversary so the awards will take on a rather more grand appearance... but there's a bit of time left to organise that.

For those who missed it, here's a full list of award winners:

Sunday First XI

Players' Player: Steve Farkas/Matt Day; Manager's Player: Ritchie Bevan; Top Scorer: Gary Raymond; Most Improved Player: Gary Raymond; Clubman: Ben Alderton

Sunday Second XI

Players' Player: Oliver Palmer; Manager's Player: Ben Thomson; Top Scorer: Tom Newland

Saturday XI

Players' Player: Mark Skidmore; Manager's Player: Mark Skidmore; Top Scorer: Danny Hardacre

Under Eighteens

Players' Player: James Miley; Manager's Player: James Miley; Top Scorer: Warren Bell; Supporters' Player: Sam Welbury; Clubman: Tom Payne; Goal of the Season: Ben Morris

Under Fourteens

Players' Players: Taylor Forde, Simon Gaitan; Managers' Players: Callum Winters, Max Burrows; Top Scorers: Fabian Brown-Johnson, Ollie Pitts; Clubmen: Sam Webb, Joshua Dell, Neil Emmerson; Coaches' Players: Finn McKeown, Gianni Picone

Under Nines

Players' Player: John East-Newbury; Manager's Player: Dylan Carpenter; Top Scorer: Ethan Wilson

Under Eights Cougars (Sundays)

Players' Player: Theo Jenkins; Manager's Player: Luke Woodward; Top Scorer: Alex Matsukatov

Under Eights Panthers and Pumas (Saturdays)

Players' Player: Thomas Brown; Most Improved Player: Sam Germann; Top Scorer: Ben Bayley

Golden Boot

Warren Bell / Ollie Pitts

Mini-Golden Boot

Ben Bayley

200 Club Members

Matt Day, Simon Jackson, Richard Randall, Ben Thomson

... and all the mums, dads, coaches, refs, linesmen, supporters...and Clare & Catherine & helpers.....





Under 14s Make an Impressive Start to May

In the Royston Crow league Division One, the Under Fourteens faced a tough mid-week trip to Biggleswade Town on May 2nd. After some adverse results recently hopes weren't too high, but the boys showed they have got their old fighting spirit back to earn a creditable 2-2 draw. We took a deserved lead when Tommy Waby followed up a shot from Josh Coleman which was blocked on the line. Either side of half-time, however, we conceded goals from half-cleared corners which were fired back in through a crowd of players. Our response was immediate with Tom Morris – Pond curling a beauty into the top corner with his weaker foot. Either side could have won the game afterwards, but the boys were well worth their point.

The lads' penultimate game was an even tougher trip—away to Championship contenders Buntingford Cougars Blues on May 6th. Also, there were players missing, so we travelled with just the bare 11. Before this game the Blues had only conceded one league goal at home all season; we did manage to double that when Jack Lammiman controlled the ball 30 yards out and hit a superb strike into the top corner for our goal of the season, but unfortunately the County champions scored seven in reply.

On the same afternoon in the Chiltern Youth league, Mahesh's Under 14s had to get something from their away game against Leighton United Blues to ensure a runners-up spot. The two previous games had been difficult for us, with a home defeat followed by a 2-2 draw in the second game. Today the lads started like a train, going 2-0 up early in the match through Dave Aery and Finn McKeown. However, lazy defending let Leighton in to reduce the deficit to 2-1 at half-time. In the second half, Leighton threw everything at us, but some amazing defending kept them at bay. When Max Burrows scored a third with 10 minutes to go, we thought the game was all over, but the home side scored a long-range screamer to make the last few minutes very tense and nervy. In the end, some fine saves from Josh Dell and heroic defending from the rest of the team secured a 3-2 victory.

The Under Fourteens' final game in the Royston Crow on May 13th was a real topsy-turvy affair. After just 9 minutes, we were 3-0 up, but Bishops Stortford pulled it back to 3-2 by half-time. After 52 minutes we had restored our 3 goal advantage as the scoreline advanced to 5-2, but 13 minutes later we found ourselves 5-7 down!! A last minute penalty from Tom Morris-Pond brought the score back to 6-7 but that was how it finished. Morris-Pond scored a second goal and others came from Josh Coleman, Jack Lammiman, Tommy Waby and substitute Ollie Pitts.

Under Eights Finish in Good Form

The Panthers and Cougars enjoyed their home games in Pirton on May 5th vs. Potton Colts. Ben B. scored twice for the Panthers, while for the Pumas Liam B. scored a screamer and Matthew M. was also on target. Their season finished with 2 home games against Stotfold on May 19th and again the boys performed very well, Ben B. taking his season's tally to 28 and Lewis M. getting his name on the scoresheet for the first time this season. Matthew M. got 2 and Teddy also scored.

Wymondley Firesharks Win the Royston Crow U16 League Cup

Why are we bothered with that piece of news? Because next season the team has agreed to join Lea Sports PSG and play as our Under Eighteens. Looking forward to that one.....



Reserves' Appearances

The eagle-eyed amongst you (or should I say 'picky') noticed that I managed to miss the Reserves' Appearances and Goalscorers out of the abridged magazine given out on Awards Night. Here are the details:

	This season		Club to date			This season		Club to date	
	Apps.	Gls	Apps.	Gls.		Apps.	Gls	Apps.	Gls.
Jack Baggett	17 (3)	6	184 (42)	52	Scott Morgan	0 (1)	1	170 (2)	5
Jez Bates	1	0	1	0	Ben Morris	0 (1)	3	65 (4)	60
Gavin Bidgood	13 (4)	0	286 (10)	1	Aaron Mullings	6 (3)	3	6 (3)	3
Alex Bishop	22	0	41 (2)	0	Tom Newland	20 (1)	14	72 (6)	56
Tyrone Clarke	3 (4)	3	3 (4)	3	Darren O'Brien	1	0	1	0
Rob Cowell	0 (1)	0	0 (1)	0	Ollie Palmer	22 (1)	0	65 (20)	6
Nathan Croke	5 (5)	0	74 (23)	3	Richard Randall	5	0	175 (54)	15
Luke Day	1	1	85 (3)	26	Gary Raymond	0 (2)	2	46 (10)	41
Marek Diduszko	1	0	86 (14)	4	Jamie Richards	21 (1)	7	317 (44)	173
Kieran Duff	0 (1)	0	27 (31)	8	Lewis Smith	2	1	76 (27)	54
Russ Greenhalge	1	1	1	1	Phil Thompson	5	2	630 (35)	677
Simon Jackson	9 (2)	0	183 (20)	11	Ben Thomson	20 (1)	8	209 (10)	62
Ian Larter	4 (2)	0	4 (2)	0	Ed Thomson	21 (2)	0	214 (41)	20
Paul MacLennan	4 (18)	0	148 (40)	10	Greg Whelan	23	6	257 (33)	80
Simon Mayes	23 (1)	8	101 (4)	17	Jon Whitehead	21 (1)	4	225 (11)	69
Pat McAnaney	24	2	113 (4)	14	Mark Williams	2 (1)	0	213 (21)	109
					Own goals		0		
32 players					Totals	27	72		

Magazine

A full version of the end-of-season magazine will be available soon on the website—I'm just waiting for the Chiltern Youth League Under 18s and Royston Crow League Under 14s to complete all their fixtures so that the league tables are the final ones.

To view or download the magazine, go to the website at www.leasports.com and select 'Magazines' from the menu on the left. There you will see links to all of the Club's magazines since the first one produced to celebrate the Club's tenth anniversary in 1983.



Of course, next year sees the Club's fortieth anniversary (where did those 30 years go!) so if anyone would like to contribute to next year's bumper edition, get in touch.



The Club Pays its Thanks to Phil Thompson

On May 13th a host of ex-players (and ex-Chairmen!) turned up at Pirton to play a tribute game for Phil Thompson. Phil, who had to hang up his boots earlier in the season because of a hip problem, has scored an amazing 677 goals in 665 games and this match was a fitting tribute to his 30 years of service to the Club.



Several other players who wanted to be there had to pull out at the last minute, but there were messages of support from far-flung ex-players, including Andy Shiers in New Zealand and Mark Booth in Abu Dhabi (much to the chagrin of Baggy's phone bill).

Before the game, Club President Steve Smith presented Phil with a framed Lea Sports shirt, in recognition of his achievements for the Club.

With ex-Chairmen Keith Lee and Mark Turner watching from the sideline and ex-Chairmen Greg Whelan and Laurence Freed on the pitch, the game was a prestigious affair and there was some pretty good football on show too, taking into account the advanced years and inflated waistlines of some of the players.

Many old faces were determined to show that they hadn't lost it (or at least still had a clue as to where to look for it) and there were chances for both sides in an even, but goalless first half. Richard Randall had a shot just tipped over the bar by Jack Baggett and no-one present will ever forget Richard Masters' open goal miss (and we won't let him forget it either). In the second half, the temperature and some weary legs began to tell, although at one point there was a great shout from a 'white' defender, who was heard to cry 'Let's slow it down a bit, whites!' (to much laughter from the touchline). In the end goals from Richard Randall and Phil himself settled the affair 2-0 in the whites favour, but everyone agreed it had been a Grand Day Out.





Time to Go Shopping

Online Club Shop now Open

Vol. 6. No. 12, June 2012

In collaboration with the company who do most of our kit printing we have come up with an online shop selling items of kit and equipment printed or embroidered with the Club's logo.

A link to the website can now be found on our home page at www.leasports.com.



As well as promoting the Club's logo, you'll also be helping our finances as the Club will receive a commission of every item sold.

On display is just a part of the company's range, so if your requirements differ from what's on offer, please contact Lowe Go's direct on 01525 754062.

Form Come Up With the Goods Again

Club Sponsors Form I.T. Solutions have once again agreed to support the Club with a new red and black kit for the Reserves, as they make their debut in Division 2 of the North Home Counties.

Form IT (formerly Premier Computer Supplies) have been sponsors of the Club since the 1988-89 season, so the 2012-13 season will be the **25th** consecutive campaign with their support.

Some things never change: in 1988-89 with Steve Smith as First Team Manager the team achieved its highest-ever league placing—fourth place in North Home Counties Division 3. Phil Thompson started the season with three consecutive hat-tricks, although it was Alan Dawson who finished as top scorer with 29 of the team's 91 goals.

We perform

Shaping your technology

Professionally and personally, shaping business environments and future successes.

A massive thank you to Hugh Byrne and everyone at Form IT for this superb support over the years. Please help to try and repay some of their involvement by considering Form IT Solutions for any IT projects you may be involved in.

You can always reach Hugh on 01582 572727.





AGM Sets New Match Fees for the Adult Teams

Next season adults will pay £5 match fees per game, following the adoption of the proposal at the Club's AGM on May 19th. Students and unemployed players will pay half fee of £2.50.

Annual subscriptions for adults remain unchanged at £10 per season.

It Had to be Offley...

Apart from penalty shoot-outs (which we don't mention any more) the First Team lost just one match at home last season. Unfortunately it was the game which decided the runners-up spot in Division One, when we lost a tight encounter 1-2 to Sporting Club Offley.

Some images from the game are now on You Tube, courtesy of Paul Brown. Take a look at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIVeRtYO1mw>



Hertfordshire FA Recognise Long Service

At the annual awards of the Hertfordshire FA, held at Knebworth Barns on July 4th, Steve Smith was presented by Chief Executive Nick Perchard with an award for 25 years service as Secretary to the Club.



Our new Under 18s' Manager Denise Miley received the Workforce Award for her work in developing football for young players at her former Club Wymondley Firesharks.

Phil's Trip to the Seaside

Phil Thompson—newly elected to the position of Vice President of Lea Sports PSG for his efforts in the past on and off the pitch—recently completed a bike ride from London to Brighton in around four and a half hours in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

Anyone wishing to donate to this great cause should visit Phil's site at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Phil-Thompson5>





Premier League Competition

Last year's competition proved surprisingly difficult to forecast, with the winner scoring 56 points – the highest winning total since 1997. Maybe the league is not as predictable as most people think. Why not give us your forecast?

- Can Manchester City dominate for years to come?
- Can Southampton step up to the mark?
- Will Norwich and Swansea suffer 'second season syndrome'?

(Don't forget—in my tips last year I recommended City for honours and Wolves for relegation—it's as easy as that.....)

Have a go – it's only two quid...Cash prizes for the top four entries.

Previous Winners:

1986-87	Steve Smith	86 points	£12
1987-88	Les McKay	72 points	£20
1988-89	Dave Pymont	68 points	£30
1989-90	Paul Gathern	62 points	£40
1990-91	Mrs. Sally Ford	72 points	£35
1991-92	Neil Slaughter	60 points	£56
1992-93	Fred Stiff	90 points	£57
1993-94	Mr. P.Lawrence	60 points	£64
1994-95	Mark Abrahams	56 points	£71
1995-96	Ian Scott	46 points	£88
1996-97	Alan Wright	64 points	£80
1997-98	G.Anderson	46 points	£64
1998-99	Roger Southam	44 points	£85
1999-00	Andy Barron	30 points	£62
2000-01	Colin Smith	46 points	£45
2001-02	Sue Lee	50 points	£100
2002-03	Graham Wylid	48 points	£120
2003-04	Mary Eagle	50 points	£90
2004-05	Samuel	40 points	£50
2005-06	George Chapman	50 points	£50
2006-07	Chris Hawkes	34 points	£50
2007-08	Ben Thomson	26 points	£50
2008-09	Glynn Isaacs	50 points	£50
2009-10	Sam Greaves	30 points	£75
2010-11	Stephen Prestidge	28 points	£60
2011-12	Andy Blades	56 points	£70

**THIS YEAR'S ENTRY FORM IS ON THE
NEXT PAGE. PRINT IT AND HAVE A GO !!**

Send entries to Steve Smith, 6 Great Green, Pirton, Hitchin, SG5 3QD
Make cheques payable to 'Lea Sports PSG'



CLOSING DATE: SUNDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2012

The decision of the Lea Sports PSG FC Executive Committee shall be final in any dispute.
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Lea Sports PSG
Football Club **Established 1973**
A FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHARTER DEVELOPMENT CLUB
PREMIER LEAGUE COMPETITION

40 YEARS OF
LEA SPORTS



2012-2013
(Twenty-seventh Season)

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

The teams are listed below in alphabetical order and you are asked to write 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 *forecasted* position. For example, if you put Chelsea 6th and they finish 14th you score 8 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 tie-breaker.

Regular updates are available on the Club website: www.leasports.com

1.	ARSENAL	
2.	ASTON VILLA	
3.	CHELSEA	
4.	EVERTON	
5.	FULHAM	
6.	LIVERPOOL	
7.	MANCHESTER CITY	
8.	MANCHESTER UTD.	
9.	NEWCASTLE UTD.	
10.	NORWICH CITY	
11.	QUEENS PK.RANGERS	
12.	READING	
13.	SOUTHAMPTON	
14.	STOKE CITY	
15.	SUNDERLAND	
16.	SWANSEA CITY	
17.	TOTTENHAM H.	
18.	WEST BROMWICH	
19.	WEST HAM UNITED	
20.	WIGAN ATHLETIC	

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
Lea Sports Contact	