HWCE SPORTS NEWS

All the latest sports stories from
High Wycombe Church of England Combined School

September - October '26

LOTS OF SKILL BUT NO LUCK FOR SOCCER STARS

Defeat in cup thriller and opening league game

(All reports by Mr Burgin)



Our team of Under 11s (the blue-socks) after winning against Chepping View (see Page Two)

It was a truly dramatic start to the season for our Under 11s team – 'The Blue-Socks' and our Development Team – 'The Red-Socks' as they travelled along the London Road to Micklefield to face Ash Hill in a 'double-header' of matches. The sun was shining bright and the conditions were perfect. Despite a few nerves, hopes were high amongst all players.

First to take the field were the Blue-Socks to play their first-round match in the Under 11s Cup. A win would see them progress to the 2nd Round and a loss would mean they would have to focus on the league and the tough standard of the District Cup tournament for the remainder of the season.

The starting line-up was Matthew in goal, a defensive duo of Noah and Abdul, Zachary playing on the left, debutant Oliver in the centre of midfield and captain Ellis on the right with Josh as striker – also making his debut for the school. Micah, Tiago and Taylon all waited patiently on the sidelines as substitutes - also excited to be playing for the school for the first time

It was a lively start for both teams with promising attacks coming for our side – particularly with good link up play between Ellis and Josh and some sturdy defending and skilful passing from Jonah. Matthew looked solid in goal and was handling everything that came his way.

The deadlock was eventually broken after Ash Hill made an uncharacteristic error with a pass back to their keeper who was being eagerly watched by Josh who stole the ball and knocked it into the net making it 1-0 to High Wycombe C of E at the half-time whistle.

Still very tight, the second half kicked off with Micah starting in place of Oliver and Taylon swapping for Zachary.

It was clear that Ash Hill were keen to get themselves back in the game and they were attacking with more ferocity. Before long, they were rewarded with one goal and then another to take the lead.

Nevertheless, High Wycombe weren't to be denied and struck back with a slightly lucky goal from Ellis which somehow evaded everyone in a crowded Ash Hill goal area and crept over the goal line. Minutes later, they were awarded a free kick. In training, we had discussed free-kick tactics and our plans were put into place with Ellis striking a well hit shot which the Ash Hill goalkeeper could only parry to Josh, who was waiting to score again. 3-2 to High Wycombe! Could we possibly hold on? By now, Tiago had taken to the field on the left and Taylon had dropped to defence with Abdul taking a well-earned break on the sidelines. Victory was in our sight until Ash Hill struck with an equaliser of their own making it 3-3 at full time – sending the game into 5 minutes each way extra time.

It was truly nail-biting stuff. We chopped and changed the team to keep legs fresh and it was end-to end action until seconds from the whistle, High Wycombe had a break and Josh found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat. He calmly slotted the ball home to complete his hat-trick. The referee signalled "21 seconds to go" – shades of the Blazing Squad hit for anyone who remembers it could have been the soundtrack. "Clear the ball!" was the shout from the sidelines. "Kick it away!" and we did – only to see it fall straight to Ash Hill who, frustratingly for us managed to score in dramatic fashion to make it 4-4. We scarcely had time to kick off with a vain attempt of a shot at goal before the full-time whistle blew to signal the dreaded penalty-shootout decider.

Penalties are always tough but there were plenty of brave volunteers in the team to step up and take them. One by one the shots beat the respective goalkeepers right up until our final penalty which was struck well but slightly wide of the post. Ash Hill were winners 5-4 on penalties. It is fair to say that the luck was in their favour and deserted our boys on the day who kept their heads high and consoled themselves with the knowledge that they had played brilliantly and represented the team well. Despite defeat it was a promising team performance – especially with several players who hadn't played together before this - except in training. There were some lovely comments made from Ash Hill staff about the team and their manners both on and off the pitch which was a joy to hear. Onwards and upwards!

RED-SOCKS ROCK ON THE PITCH IN OPENING GAME

Solid performance by the team despite a loss

In the second of the matches at Ash Hill, our mixed team of boys and girls took to the field to see what they could do, with, just like the Under 11 team, many players making their first appearance for the school.

The starting line-up was Jedi between the posts in goal, Bella S and Ethan in defence, a midfield three of Bella R on the left, Ezra in the centre, captain Anna on the right and Julian as striker. Substitutes were Sofia, Thea and Roman. It was a case of the girls being the 'old-hands' having played brilliantly last season – narrowly missing out on a league title – and the boys being the 'newbies.'

It was a fairly even match for most of the game with both sides having their fair share of chances and good performances from all of our players overall. However, Ash Hill made more of their chances than High Wycombe did of theirs and scored twice in quick succession to take a 2-0 lead. More work will be done in training to practice marking attackers.

But, true to form, we weren't to be denied and our star player, Anna's determination and endless running paid off as she clawed a goal back for our team to give some hope of recovery. A hope that was left slightly dashed on the very next Ash Hill attack when they scored again to restore their 2 goal advantage and make it 3-1 at half time. We felt a little hard done by as Jedi had been able to get a hand on all three shots but hadn't quite got enough on them to prevent the goal – again, a case of luck deserting us perhaps?

The second half began with Thea swapping for Ethan, who had done a good job in defence, Sofia taking Bella R's place on the left and Roman swapping for Jedi in goal.

It was a really strong performance for the next 15 minutes and High Wycombe were arguably the better team in the second half. Roman had far less to do as the ball was being kept away from our goal well – and in the rare moments he was called into action, he dealt with shots and crosses superbly. Bella S looked like a terrier chasing every ball – a regular Speedy Gonzales – and also hefted clearance after clearance back down the pitch towards Ash Hill's goal with each mighty kick. All the girls in fact, looked particularly strong and didn't shy away from the action with some great tackles from Bella R, Thea, Anna and Sofia (the latter 2 also helping mount many attacks – ably assisted by Julian and Ezra.)

We didn't add to our goal tally, but neither did we concede any more and so the game ended with a 3-1 defeat but also with smiling faces as all knew how well they had played.



Members of our Red-Socks Football Team – See them in their smart kit in the next edition!

ENJOY THE VIEW? BLUE-SOCKS IN ACTION IN 'CHEPPING' & 'ABBEY' DOUBLE-HEADER

A rather more rainy Tuesday afternoon saw our blue-socks team begin their league campaign with back-to-back matches against first, Abbey View and then, Chepping View.

Playing 2 fixtures gave the opportunity for an almost full compliment of players to take part with Oliver (who was poorly) the only absentee. Thus, Dylan and Samuel were able to make their debuts.

It was a mixed pair of results in the end. In the first game, we got of to a positive start in our first attack and created a great chance only to see Abbey View score a lucky goal from the break. We didn't expect to concede so early and clearly the team were rocked. Nevertheless, they continued to fight hard creating chance after chance only to see each one thwarted, finally losing by 2 goals to nil after conceding in the 2nd half.

It was a more positive result against Chepping View where we triumphed by 4 goals to 1 with 4 different scorers: Ellis, Josh, Matthew and Zachary. The last was particularly satisfying as it was a real team goal with players linking their passes superbly to create the opportunity. Thankfully, we could go home smiling in the damp and failing light after a very long and tiring day.

MIXED FORTUNES FOR HWCE UNDER 11s IN DISTRICT CUP

A busy Saturday schedule sees a lot of good football on show but not quite the results we wanted

It had already been a long Saturday morning for Mr Burgin as organiser of the District Cup Football Competition. An early 8am start on a chilly morning wasn't particularly welcome as the Girls' stage of the competition kicked off at Hamilton Academy.

With our school not represented in the Girls' tournament – our girls are very talented but we don't quit have enough for a full team – there's not too much to share. There was some terrific football which saw the eventual winners (Holy Trinity) and runners up (Wooburn Green) progress to the next round in November at Gerrards Cross.

Our Under 11s team of boys arrived at 12 noon (some considerably earlier – such was their keenness) to play a series of 5 league games in the initial stages to see if they could do enough to progress to the semi-finals and the final.

In our league were: Disraeli, Burford, Great Kingshill, Carrington and Spinield – some very tough opposition as many of these schools have a good reputation for football.

First up were Spinfield. All matches were considerably short in length at only 8 minutes long, so we knew that we had to make the most of our opportunities as a single goal could be the decider. We needed to avoid mistakes and defend well, but also make it count when we had an opportunity to score.

It was fairly end-to-end football but we were definitely having the best chances – proved when Zachary capitalised on an error in the Spinfield's defence, intercepting a pass back to the goalkeeper and bundling the ball over the line to give High Wycombe C of E a deserved 1-0 victory – we were off and running!

Our next game was against Burford, From the kick-off, we were always under a lot of pressure – having to rely on long-balls out of our own half just to get the ball clear and on some terrific saves from Andrey in goal. Our resolute defending eventually broke and Burford scored the only goal of the game to give them a 1-0 victory. We would have to do better.



A still-smiling team after their 5 matches in the District Cup. Left to right – Tiago, Zachary, Josh, Oliver, Ellis, Mr Burgin, Jonah, Andrey, Abdul, Taylon and Micah.

Determined to hit back after that narrow loss, we kicked-off our third game against Disraeli. If we thought the pressure against Burford was intense, it was a walk in the park compared to Disraeli who laid siege to our goal with shot after shot. Luckily, Andrey was on top-form with save after spectacular save worthy of… (insert name of star- goalkeeper here!) including a remarkable full-stretch fingertip push over the bar to deny a rocket fuelled shot that looked destined for the top corner. As Disraeli stormed forward, we looked to strike with quick counter-attacks and this we did quite late on with Jonah laying a superb pin-point accurate pass down the right wing to find Ellis, who calmly belted his shot past the despairing outstretched right hand of the giant Disraeli keeper to give High Wycombe a 'snatch-and-grab' 1-0 win!

Two games left to play and we were still in with a shout if we could turn in positive results.

Next was Carrington. We had watched closely and had our tactics sorted, having noted that they had a tendency to chase the ball and leave space I front of their goal. Of course, this depended on us being able to gain enough possession to exploit the error. Unfortunately, this wasn't to be the case. Carrington were in good form and dominated most of the game and scored two goals in quite quick succession to give themselves a 2-0 win.

Our chances of qualification were now somewhere between slim and none, but we weren't going to let that bother us and were determined to try to get a good result against Great Kingshill, who had been the best performing team in our league. As this comment suggests, it was an uphill battle and one we eventually lost by 2 goals to nil with eventual runners up, Great Kingshill, topping the table.

Despite results not going our way, it was still an enjoyable afternoon of football. Thanks to players and their supporters.

HWCE SPORTS STARS

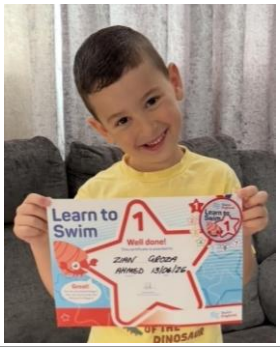


ETHAN DOES SWIMMINGLY!

A great start to the school year with one of our youngest sports stars having an entry in the newsletter. Many congratulations to Ethan in Reception class who has begun his swimming journey in achieving his 5-metre certificate.

ZIAN SHINES IN THE POOL!

Another talented swimmer – this time it's Zian from Year 2 who has passed his Level 1 Learn to Swim award. Hopefully we are starting to gather some superb swimmers for future swimming galas!





CAN HE KICK IT? YES, JEROME CAN!

Huge congratulations to Jerome in Year 3 who has gained his orange belt in karate. He worked really hard showing determination, discipline and perseverance through all of his training. We are all very proud of him and look forward to hearing about his next belt. He has joined an ever increasing number of martial artists in our school.



ANYONE FOR TENNIS? YES – MATTHEW

Regular readers will know that Matthew in Year 6 is a regular feature in our sports reports – shining in multi-sports including rugby, hockey, football, parkour, street-dance… the list goes on. This time, it's tennis with Matthew winning the High Wycombe Lawn Tennis Club Under 10s championships over the summer holidays. Well done Matthew on your latest success.

If you want to be a tennis star like Matthew, High Wycombe Lawn Tennis Club offer lessons. Check out their website for details:

https://www.620tennis.co.uk/junior

KEEP THOSE SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS COMING!

It's been lovely to see all the achievements of our pupils – both sports related and non-sports related – celebrated in our 'new-look' Friday Achievement Assemblies.

Don't forget, if you want to see them in our sports reports too, please e-mail photos and relevant information to the school office (office@highwycombecombined.bucks.sch.uk) and they will be passed on to Mr Burgin for inclusion in Sports assemblies and Sports Reports.

STAFF SPORTS STAR – MISS HAWKINS

Our staff sports star this month is our fabulous Year 6 teacher, Miss Hawkins, who is making her second appearance in our school sports report having featured previously for her walking exploits with the family's pet dog, Oakley. Many may argue whether walking Oakley takes more bravery than this issue's exploit which, as you can see, is Miss Hawkins, about 30 feet in the air, sliding along a zipline! And, yes, eagle-eyed readers will recognise that, accompanying her on the other zipline is none other than our former headteacher and Miss Hawkins' current mother – Mrs Hawkins!

The photograph was taken at this years' PGL trip for Year 6 back in June where both Hawkinses/Hawkinsi?? were attending. I imagine that their competitive natures were something to behold that week as never has there been a more competitive duo. Miss Hawkins tells me, "I won this zipline competition because I slid the furthest!" None of us are going to try arguing!



Miss and Mrs Hawkins bravely take on the PGL zipline challenge back in June this year.

HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

Latest House-point Scores

Year One – Robins: Running & Ball Skills



1st Surfers 2nd Bikers 3rd Skaters 4th Riders

Year Two – Swallows: Ball Skills



1st Riders 2nd Bikers 3rd Surfers 4th Skaters

Year Three – Kites: Lacrosse



1st Surfers 2nd Skaters 3rd Riders 4th Bikers

Year Four – Hawks: Netball



1st Skaters 2nd Riders 3rd Surfers 4th Bikers

Year Five – Eagles: Tag Rugby



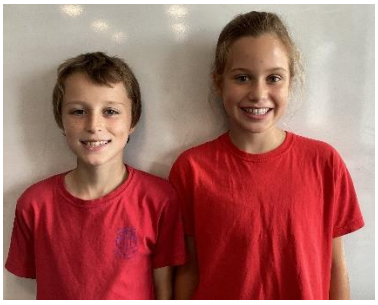
1st Skaters 2nd Riders 3rd Bikers 4th Surfers

Year 6 - Owls:



1st Bikers 2nd Surfers 3rd Riders 4th Skaters

HOUSE-POINT RUNNING TOTALS

1st		372 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – EZRA & CLAUDIA 
2nd		360 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – SOFIA & ANDREY 
3rd		344 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – ARTHUR & ISABELLA 
4th		343 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JONAH & ANNA 

Well, a new school year has begun and our new House Captains have settled into their roles well – inspiring and leading their teams on the 'Team Mile' at morning break and thinking about sporting activities they can organise for the school.

We all think they have been well chosen by their peers and look forward to seeing how they continue to fulfil their roles as the year passes. In terms of the house-point competition, it's an early lead for Riders, but remember, it's a marathon not a sprint. There is plenty of time left for other teams to catch up!