



EDGE OF GLORY!

Under 11 boys close in on 2nd successive league title

Another 2 matches and another 2 victories have set the stage for a grand finale to the season with just one more match to go for our Under 11s (boys) football team. A win in our final game against Oakridge could see us lift the title once again after winning it last season.

The first of these wins came just a short hop away down the London Road against Beechview School on a sunny afternoon on 27th February.

It was a familiar starting line up with Isaac in goal, Finley and Kevin in defence, a midfield trio of James, Alfie and captain Jerry and Arthur as striker. The substitutes for this outing were Zhenglin and Habib (making his debut for the school team).

We started extremely well, taking control of the match straight away with a slick passing move which saw us score within the first minute – Alfie finishing the play with a clinical goal. Nevertheless, Beechview looked quite dangerous and came right back at us and some tough defending was needed. Soon, we doubled our lead with a second goal, only to see Beechview strike back with one of their own to reduce the margin to one goal once more and to leave us feeling slightly nervous – though it didn't show. It certainly didn't when James scored to restore our 2 goal lead, making the score 3-1 at half time.

Habib came on for Kevin in the second half and Zhenglin eventually replaced James as we continued to be the team in control. Threats to our goal were few and far between and we managed to add a couple of goals to our total with Kevin returning to the field to score the final goal – a blistering direct free kick – with the last kick of the game. Final score, HWCE 5 Beechview 1.



Double victories for the boys - versus Beechview (left) and King's Wood (right)

The second of our victories came against King's Wood - who the girls had beaten the week before.

In contrast to the weather when we played Beechview, we had to endure a hailstorm just before kick-off as the sky clouded over.

Last year, we had recorded our record score of 9-0 against King's Wood but, if we felt we could record an easy victory this time round, we were soon to be proved wrong. King's Wood were very determined from the outset and clearly had some strong and talented players on their side.

We took the lead early on but definitely didn't have things all our own way and soon King's Wood equalised. We added a second and a third before they scored again to reduce the deficit to a single goal before we squeezed a 4th goal in before the half time whistle blew.

Things were quite finely balanced and we had had to endure some tough attacks. Our defenders – Finley and Eesah needed to work hard and James,

Alfie and Jerry had to be at their best. Arthur had seen less of the ball than we had anticipated. It was still all to play for.

One thing we definitely had on our side was discipline and organisation. Our team play was impeccable. Each player knew their role and stuck to it. Where in the past, we could have panicked and all chased the same ball, this didn't happen. The team had learned a lot from coaching sessions and from experience and, in the second half held their nerve. When Dylan, Flynn and Zhenglin came on to replace the midfield trio of Alfie, Jerry and James, we had added 2 further goals to our total and were very much in control. The three substitutes all turned in superb performances of their own, despite not having that much time to impress, and through their hard work, Arthur could add a seventh goal. Next season is looking bright if our Year 5 players all play as well as Dylan and Flynn did.

The final score was 7-2 in favour of High Wycombe C of E with Alfie chosen as deserved player of the match for his impressive 4 goal haul.

GIRL POWER!

Girls rejoice in their first win

It's been a busy Spring Term as far as football is concerned with matches filling the calendar almost every week as both school teams try to complete their quota of league matches before the season finishes at the end of April. Since the last report, the girls have played two further games and have two more to go.

On Thursday 6th March, they were up against King's Wood. The afternoon was bright but breezy with a cold wind blowing across the pitch. Our warm up didn't really make us feel much warmer, but, nevertheless, we were ready for the game.

The line up was largely unchanged – Lucy in goal, captain Bella in defence alongside Amara, a midfield trio of Stephanie, Elsie and Megan and Maribel playing as striker. Melinda and Kiera were on the subs bench. Winning the toss, we elected to shoot uphill in the first half – facing away from the setting sun.

It was a close half with both teams getting their fair share of possession of the ball. There were many encouraging forays into 'enemy territory' by our team but we couldn't quite make the most of our chances. Meanwhile, when the ball was in our half, a combination of tough but fair tackling and a calm level-headed Lucy between the sticks snuffed out any opportunities Kings Wood had. It reached half time and the score was still 0-0.

Some re-jigging of the team took place at half time with Amara being pushed forward as striker and Kiera moving into her position in defence. Maribel made way along with Stephanie – with Melinda coming on in the right-wing position.

It turned out to be a masterful stroke as within a few minutes of the restart, Amara scored a spectacular goal from distance with the ball looping over the King's Wood keepers head and into the back of the net. 1-0 to High Wycombe C of E!

Buoyed by their first ever goal as a team, the girls' seemed even more confident and were hungry for more. The pressure now seemed on King's Wood almost constantly and there was some terrific football being played. This culminated with Elsie making one of her trademark runs up the centre of the pitch, bursting through the opposition's defence and scoring her first and High Wycombe's second goal with the last kick of the match.

Final score 2-0 to High Wycombe C of E and some very cheerful, smiling faces all round.



Girls rule! Top vs King's Wood and bottom – after the match vs Disraeli.

The second of the girls' matches this half term and their fourth overall was against Disraeli School on a glorious sunny afternoon on 20th March. This was Disraeli's final game of the season having won all of their others by either 4-0 or 5-0 score-lines, except for their game v Hamilton which had resulted in a 1-1 draw. On paper, they were far superior to our girls, but we weren't going to let this bother us one bit.

From the whistle, it was obvious how much our team had improved and how much they had learned about the game. They looked confident and disciplined in their approach. Keeping their shape superbly and marking players well as they absorbed attack after attack from Disraeli. The team tackled with confidence, not shying away from any challenge and constantly looked to see if they could attack on the break. They held on well for 10 minutes before Disraeli created a great move of a string of accurate passes which finally saw them get the ball behind our defence to score. A second was added from a corner kick soon after. 2-0 to Disraeli at half time.

With similar changes to the last match (aside from Elsie taking up the striker's role and Amara pushing forward into centre midfield), the second half began in much the same way as the first – the same great organisation, the same tough tackling, the same confidence. Whenever Disraeli surged forward, Bella or Melinda were there to mop up at the back or Lucy was there with a pair of safe hands to gather the ball. Stephanie, Amara and Megan were winning tackles in Midfield and Elsie tried to surge forward with the ball whenever she got it. We tried to create goal scoring opportunities from any dead ball situation we had with Amara using her hefty kick to get the ball in the box but there was no joy. Finally, in the dying moments of the game, captain Bella (player of the match in the previous game) found herself with space down the right side of the pitch – making a solo run. With only the keeper to beat, she kept a cool head to slot the ball home to score to make the final score 2-1 to Disraeli.

The girls had played superbly to lose by a very narrow margin against the league champions. Hopefully, they can carry this excellent team play and team spirit into their last two matches of the season.

HWCE SPORTS STARS

ELLIOT SHINES AS PLAYER OF THE WEEK AT HIGH WYCOMBE RUFC

Many congratulations to Elliot from Year 1 who is the latest of our pupils who is enjoying playing rugby at High Wycombe Rugby Union Football Club in Loudwater. Elliot plays for the Under-6 team and was named their 'Player of the Week' in training on Sunday 23rd March.

Elliot said, "I've been playing rugby for just over a year and I go to training with Sonny who is in my class," (readers will recall that Sonny won this award last half term). Elliot continued, "I love playing rugby because we get to play lots of games. I've scored lots of tries. It's not full-contact rugby with tackling, it's tag rugby. When you get tagged, you have to wait to get your tag back before you can join in again."

If anyone is interested in playing rugby, the club are always happy to welcome new players and are offering a month's free trial for anyone wanting to give it a go. See Mr Burgin for further details or check out the club's website – highwycomberfc.rfu.club.



Elliot with his gleaming trophy



Andrey – playing the waiting game ahead of his next match in February...



... and in action against a tough opponent.

BRONZE MEDAL FOR DETERMINED ANDREY

Well done to Andrey in Year 4 who attended a judo competition in London on the 15th of February. The competition was a huge event – attracting many competitors from all over the south of the country. There were lots of opponents in Andrey's category.

As a result, Andrey had to wait nearly four hours in a very cold sports hall before he got to fight his opponents, who were all very experienced.

Andrey had 3 matches in all and fought well in all three, losing by narrow margins each time. It was a tough competition and Andrey earned a lot of praise for his 'never give up' attitude. He was awarded a bronze medal and gained some valuable experience. Most of all though, he enjoyed taking part and had lots of fun.

His loss has certainly not broken his spirit, in fact, if anything, it has made him even more determined and he is looking forward to the next competition on the 30th of March.

Andrey said, "It was really difficult because I was put in a group with competitors who were all yellow belts – and this is a higher ability than me. I am a red belt because I only really started learning judo a year ago. I was really pleased though that all of my matches were really close, which gives me confidence for next time. Hopefully, I can soon earn my yellow belt. I am really looking forward to the next competition."

His parents, as well as all of us at High Wycombe C of E School are very proud of him for doing his best and not giving up, even when things get hard!

Andrey receives his judo coaching at High Wycombe Judo Centre who are based in the Cressex/Booker area of High Wycombe. If anyone is interested in finding out more about judo, you can contact them at info@wycombejudocentre.co.uk.

CHAMPIONS!

Boys triumph 2 years in a row



Well, they did it! Our boys Under 11 football team secured a 2nd successive league title with a 3-1 victory over Oakridge School on Wednesday 2nd April.

Conditions were tough on a very dry, uneven pitch which meant it was tricky to control high bouncing balls, but the boys played some neat passing football to see it out to the end.

Goals came from Alfie and Arthur in the first half before Oakridge had a goal disallowed as it had been scored from a goalkeeper's place kick. They then scored for real with their striker making a tight turn and shot from the penalty spot.

Oakridge's long ball tactics had us on the back foot but we still created plenty of opportunities of our own with a shot hitting the post, several creeping just wide or just over, or the keeper making good saves. Finally, Alfie (top scorer as he was last season) put our minds at ease by blocking the goalie's clearance to add a 3rd to secure the title.

A jubilant and delighted team – having won a second league title in a row.

Back row – Alfie (centre midfield and top scorer for the season once again), stalwart defenders Finley and 'man-mountain' Kevin, 'safe hands' Isaac (goalkeeper), and right-wing 'star of the future' Joel;

Front row – James (hardest worker – "I'll play anywhere"), 'supersub' Zhenglín (scorer of the goal of the season – from practically the half-way line - at the District Finals), captain 'magic boots' Jerry, striker 'back of the net' Arthur and midfielder Kaedon 'wait 'til you see what I can do next season'

STAFF SPORTS STAR – MISS COLLINS



Miss Collins with the rest of her university athletics team

Another sports report and yet another incredible sports star on our staff team. This time it is the turn of our fantastic Year 6 class teacher – Miss Collins, who is a keen runner – as can be seen in the photo on the left.

Miss Collins took up competitive running as part of her university's athletics team (all of whom are in the photograph). Her preferred event was the 100 metres where she recorded a personal best time of 13 seconds.

Since leaving university and becoming a full-time teacher, there is less time for running. However, Miss Collins has not let her fitness regime slip – gearing up from sprinting to distance running and completing not just one, but two distance runs of 5 kilometres each week.

She says, "I am really keen on continuing to improve my personal best time for the 5 kilometres now. It is regularly below 30 minutes but the more I train. I know the fitter I'll be and the faster I'll be!"

HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

Latest House- point Scores

Reception - Wrens – Basketball



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

Year One - Robins – Bat & Ball Skills



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

Year Two - Swallows – Rounders



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

Year Three – Kites – Football



1st Bikers, 2nd Riders & Skaters 3rd Surfers

Year Four – Hawks – Dance



1st Surfers, 2nd Bikers, 3rd Riders & Skaters

Year Five – Eagles – Tag Rugby



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

Year Six – Owls – Badminton



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

HOUSE-POINT RUNNING TOTALS

1st		2209 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – HANNAH & ISAAC 
2nd		2204 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JERRY & BELLA 
3rd		2190 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – LAIBA & GERVAS 
4th		2057 points	HOUSE CAPTAINS – AMIRA & ALFIE 

Wow! – It's certainly getting very exciting as far as house-point totals are concerned. A fabulous performance by Riders this half term has put them back on top, but with a margin of less than 20 points separating 1st and 3rd, it's anybody's title to win.

With loads of points to be won in our Healthy Heroes Sports Week, another Global Awareness Day to come and the on-going 'Team Mile' each week, it's not too late for Bikers to turn it around and catch up on the other three houses. The house-captains are sure to play an important role in encouraging their team members in this last, but crucial, term.

Please keep those sporting achievements coming in too. We love to celebrate successes outside of school as well as inside school! Send them to the office or to phase e-mails FAO Mr Burgin.