

# HWCE SPORTS NEWS



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

September – October 2023

## TERRIFIC PERFORMANCE BY SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM!

Despite score-lines, boys play brilliantly against two of the District's top teams in the District Cup

*(All football reports by Mr Burgin)*



Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. I've just returned from the opening football games of the new season – cold, wet and bedraggled but optimistic after the performance of our Year 5 and 6 footballers.

The circumstances weren't great. If we were in Ancient Greece, I'd say the Gods were conspiring against us. Rain came lashing down at lunchtime and did not cease for the matches which meant our new kit (generously provided by the Friends Committee – many thanks to them) was clinging to us. We had to make do without Toba, who unfortunately had to withdraw at the last minute and, furthermore, the draw in the District Cup had pitted us against two of the top teams in the district: last year's narrowly beaten semi-finalists, Disraeli, and champions, our hosts, Burford.

We knew we would be up against it but were determined to show everyone what we were made of to try to get the season off to the best start we could possibly manage.

Our opening game was against Burford. We had a lively start, putting them under early pressure, particularly with Jerry and Alfie linking up well on the left and providing some good passes for Arthur who was playing as a lone striker. Defensively we were solid too with captain Reuben and James organising the marking of Burford's attackers. Noah, in goal, didn't have as much to do as we thought he would. Harry, at right wing was putting in some solid tackles with occasional forays into Burford's goal area.

A few chances or half chances fell our way but unfortunately and frustratingly for us, we were unable to capitalise with a goal.

It wasn't until nearly halftime that the breakthrough came for Burford – a superb corner from their right, whipped into the box and met with a powerful header that we could do nothing about. It was a great goal – a fact that we couldn't deny. The whistle blew for half-time 2 minutes later.

Kicking uphill in the second half, we started well once again and really took the game to Burford. They may have been a little surprised that we were able to put them under such pressure as we looked hard for the equalising goal we felt we deserved.

We had to absorb a lot of pressure of our own late in the half but were organised and resolute in our defending, marking well, making strong tackles to win balls and linking passes brilliantly to work the ball out of our half. I was impressed at the calmness of the team.

At the full-time whistle, the score remained 1-0 to Burford and, despite the loss, we shook hands and left the pitch feeling positive.

There wasn't much time before the 2<sup>nd</sup> game vs Disraeli. Two changes were made with Zhenelin coming on for Harry on the left of midfield, Gervas coming on at right wing and Alfie moving to striker to replace Arthur. Jerry moved to centre midfield.

Disraeli looked very strong from the start, particularly in attack with their forwards looking dangerous on the break. We were left chasing the game for a lot of the match but continued to defend well to keep them at bay until about half way through the first half. A Disraeli shot fizzed its way into our box and took an untimely deflection, cruelly deceiving Noah in our goal who managed to change direction at the last minute to get a hand to it, only to see his fine save fall to a Disraeli striker who knocked it into the net. Another goal followed just before half time.

In the second half, Disraeli scored their third with another cruel deflection which crept passed Noah after he had the initial shot well covered. It really seemed bad luck was plaguing us on the pitch, even more so after Arthur, back on as striker, saw his superb shot hit the post after being played through by an excellent pass from Alfie.

Despite losing both matches and feeling disappointed at not scoring a goal, the boys were upbeat. It is very early in the season and we must remember we were playing at two of the best sides we are likely to meet whose teams were nearly all Year 6 boys.

Our team has great talent & there was excellent football played which gives us optimism in the league & cup campaigns to come. Most importantly, they enjoyed playing, were a credit to our school in how they conducted themselves and learned a lot from the experience. I am very proud. Thanks to all who supported & transported.

# NARROW DEFEAT IN UNDER 11s CUP FOR HIGH WYCOMBE

Luck just not on our side despite another excellent performance



Still all smiles at the end of the game despite a frustrating score-line.

It has been a frustrating start to the season for our school football team who have literally not had the 'luck of the draw'. First, they had to face two of the district's top sides in the Boys District Cup qualifiers and then, they had to play against last season's runners-up, St Paul's of Woodburn Green in the preliminary round of the Under 11 cup. On the plus side, it was lovely to see ex High Wycombe members of staff, Miss Jones and Miss Harkcom, who now work at St Paul's.

The weather was on our side this time as the sun shone brightly over the lush, green grass of the pitch (can you tell I'm jealous?). Had it been the day before, I doubt we'd have played in thunder and lightning, and at least we weren't going to get a soaking like we had done in our previous games.

We were missing our striker, Arthur, who was poorly, so a returning Toba played up front with Jerry and Harry playing left and right wing respectively. Alfie was in centre midfield and the pairing of captain Reuben and James were ready to defend anything that came their way. Noah, once again, was between the sticks. On the 'subs bench' Khyan and Finley were ready to make their season debuts.

Wycombe won the toss and kicked off.

It was a slightly nervy start but we soon got into our groove with some slick passing and nifty footwork to mount several attacks with Toba using his strength to try to get past players and Jerry, Alfie and Harry linking well in midfield.

Reuben and James were solid at the back and managed to clear most dangers when St Paul's attacked. St Paul's looked dangerous (as you would expect from last year's finalists) but Wycombe certainly weren't getting outplayed and had several chances of their own.

Finally, the deadlock was broken when St Paul's crossed from their right. Noah got a hand to the ball but could not get it away and the ball fell kindly to a St Paul's player who tucked it into the net.

However, St Paul's' celebrations were short-lived as we attacked strongly and after a bit of 'ping-pong' in the St Paul's' box, Jerry struck the ball with his right foot and it soared past the outstretched arm of the St Paul's keeper and into the goal – our first goal of the season!

After that, it was end-to-end stuff with chances coming both team's way – High Wycombe perhaps with the best of them as there were many goalmouth scrambles in front of St Paul's goal.

It was still 1-1 when the second half began. Khyan came on for Harry and then Finley came on to replace James as we saw even more excitement, goalmouth scrambles and a struck post as High Wycombe C of E piled on the pressure - but with no reward.

There was still plenty of stalwart defending to be done by the team too to keep the scores level, which they were at full-time.

So, extra-time beckoned and St Paul's looked the stronger now as they piled on the pressure looking for victory. With a minute of the first half of extra-time remaining, Wycombe unfortunately conceded a free-kick which gave St Paul's a shooting chance from just outside our goal area. Their captain stepped up to take the free kick and blasted his shot past our defenders and Noah, who could do nothing to save such a thunderbolt.

We rallied well in the second period of extra time with James and Harry both returning in place of Khyan and Alfie, but St Paul's held out well, keeping possession to deny us attacking chances. It was defeat by the narrowest of margins but still a great performance to be proud of.

Onwards and upwards as they say!

# HWCE SPORTS STARS

Please e-mail the school office with any sporting achievements outside of school. We'd love to hear about them!



Warren gets to grips with a tough opponent.

## WARREN TRIUMPHS IN CATCH – WRESTLING BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Year 2 Superstar wows the crowd in Wigan

We are very proud to announce that we have a champion in our midst after Warren in Year 2 was crowned British Junior Catch-Wrestling Champion in his age group at the championships held in Wigan during the summer holidays.

Warren hasn't been practising catch-wrestling for very long but his coaches were confident that he was ready to compete in his first ever tournament at the British Championships.

Faced with 4 bouts against more experienced opponents, Warren's parents and other supporters proudly looked on as he was victorious in 2 matches and drawing one.

Warren showed really confidence and courage to step out and compete and represented his martial arts gym superbly. It was an amazing experience for him.

Warren said, "Sometimes I get hurt, but that just makes me stronger!"



Warren proudly shows off his medal.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS CATCH-WRESTLING?

Catch wrestling (originally known to most as catch-as-catch-can) is a classical grappling style of combat sport. It was popularised by wrestlers of travelling funfairs who developed their own submission holds, or "hooks", into their wrestling to increase their effectiveness against their opponents. Catch wrestling derives from many different international styles of wrestling: several English styles (Lancashire, as well as Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling, Devonshire, and Irish collar-and-elbow wrestling). In 1904 it was included in the Olympic Games. If you want to know more – just ask Warren.



Ellis proudly shows off his award.

## ELLIS AWARDED PLAYER OF THE DAY

Ellis in Year 3 was delighted when his hard work paid off at the end of an exhausting training session as he was awarded 'Player of the Day' at High Wycombe Rugby Club on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Ellis is a keen rugby player and enjoys attending training every week. He plays for the Under 8s.

Ellis said, "I love playing rugby matches, that's my favourite part, and so far I have scored more than 20 tries

If you are interested in playing rugby, High Wycombe Rugby Club's website says "new players are welcome – girls included" in all age groups. Check the website ([highwycomberfc.rfu.club](http://highwycomberfc.rfu.club)), go along on a Sunday morning at 10am (training is between 10am and 12noon every Sunday) or talk to Mr Smith who plays in the men's team.



## STAFF SPORTS STARS – MR SMITH

Those of you who are eagle-eyed will be able to spot our Year 4 teacher, Mr Smith, playing rugby in the above photograph. Mr Smith plays for High Wycombe RFC and can be seen here showing great ball handling skills. A keen fitness fanatic, Mr Smith really enjoys his sport. Aside from rugby, his favourite sport is cricket. No doubt he is enjoying the World Cup, despite England's poor start. He also has a passion for football, although some may say his choice of team to support (Charlton Athletic) is slightly dubious!

# YEAR 5s AGONISINGLY DEFEATED IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE CUP

Familiar story of bad luck as the Under 10s narrowly beaten 3-2 by  
Holy Trinity Marlow

It is beginning to sound like an all too familiar story as our school football teams have had a frustrating start to the season – playing really well in matches but losing out by the narrowest of margins. Thus it was when we journeyed once again to Marlow, once again in the rain, this time to play the opening round match of the Under 10s cup against Holy Trinity.

As it was an Under 10s match, we didn't have the relatively more experienced Reuben, Noah, Toba, Khyan and Harry. Instead, making their debuts for the school, were Kevin, Bella and Isaac and returning to the team, were Gervas, Zhenglin and Arthur.

On a very bumpy pitch, in heavy drizzle, the team got off to a bad start when, in the second minute, a cross field pass was intercepted by the Holy Trinity centre forward who tucked it past Isaac's outstretched arm and into the corner of the net. It was a tough goal to take when we had been brimming with confidence.

However, we quickly put it behind us and set about trying to get back into the match. Once again, the regular trio of vice-captain James on the left of defence, captain Jerry on the left wing and Alfie, playing in the centre were linking up well and there were some promising balls being played up to Arthur as centre forward. We started to create chances but few were really clear cut. Holy Trinity were very strong on the break and Kevin really had his hands full on the right of the pitch. Nevertheless, he and Finley backed each other up well to keep the attack at bay, and when the ball got passed our defence, Isaac, in goal, did a good job of mopping things up to keep the score at 1-0 at half time. We knew we weren't out yet with all to play for in the second half.

Starting the second half, Bella came on for Kevin to do her bit for girl-power as we switched to playing a back three in defence, with James looking to break down the centre on the counter attack to support the midfield and strikers. Zhenglin came on in midfield with Alfie moving into a more forward position as striker as Arthur took a well-earned rest.

Barely a minute had been played though, when Holy Trinity scored from an attack on their right, rifling the ball into the top corner of our net.



The Year 5 team – still smiling after their narrow defeat.

The pressure was now really on as High Wycombe CE battled hard to not concede any further goals, with Bella, James and Finlay all making last ditch defensive tackles to keep Holy Trinity at bay. However, bad luck plagued us once more as Holy Trinity, again looking dangerous down the right, whipped in a cross. James, doing his job admirably well, stretched out a leg to stop the cross reaching their centre forward, only to see his block go into the goal in exactly the same fashion as Joel Matip's had done in the recent Liverpool v Tottenham game. James and I (as Liverpool supporters) could console ourselves that we had emulated our beloved Reds and that 'these things sometimes happen'.

Our team rallied strongly and refused to be beaten. Arthur came back on for Zhenglin and Gervas entered the frame replacing Bella as we needed to change the shape of the team – pushing more players forward to try to grab some goals in what little time was left.

Two minutes from time, in a carbon-copy fashion of Holy Trinity's opening goal, Arthur pounced on a cross-field pass and stroked the ball into the Holy Trinity goal. We'd pulled a goal back!

We continued to threaten the Holy Trinity goal and it was their turn to absorb some pressure, but time was running out for us to score.

With seconds left, Alfie surged into the Holy Trinity half, crossing the ball to Jerry, whose shot rocketed past the left arm of the Holy Trinity keeper just as the final whistle blew. 3-2 to Holy Trinity.

We were left to reflect upon what almost was and what could have been after another good team performance. Onwards and upwards.

# HOUSE TO HOUSE ENQUIRIES

## Latest House-point Scores

### Year One – Robins - Running



1<sup>st</sup> = Skaters. 2<sup>nd</sup> = Bikers. 3<sup>rd</sup> = Riders. 4<sup>th</sup> = Surfers

### Year Two - Swallows



1<sup>st</sup> = Surfers, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Riders, 3<sup>rd</sup> = Skaters, 4<sup>th</sup> = Bikers

### Year Three - Kites



1<sup>st</sup> = Surfers, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Bikers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Skaters & Riders

### Year Four – Hawks



1<sup>st</sup> = Surfers. 2<sup>nd</sup> = Bikers. & Skaters. 4<sup>th</sup> = Riders

### Year Five - Eagles



1<sup>st</sup> = Skaters, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Riders, 3<sup>rd</sup> = Bikers, 4<sup>th</sup> = Surfers.

### Year Six - Owls



1<sup>st</sup> = Surfers, 2<sup>nd</sup> = Riders, 3<sup>rd</sup> = Skaters, 4<sup>th</sup> = Bikers.

# HOUSE-POINT RUNNING TOTALS

1st		<b>240 points</b>	HOUSE CAPTAINS – JESSE & ELLA 
2nd		<b>230 points</b>	HOUSE CAPTAINS – REUBEN & LOIS 
3rd		<b>200 points</b>	HOUSE CAPTAINS – ALEX C & KEIRA 
4th		<b>190 points</b>	HOUSE CAPTAINS – KHYAN & EMILY 

We are delighted to announce the Year 6s who will be House Captains/Sports Leaders for this academic year. All of them completed excellent applications before the summer break and demonstrated a great maturity which we believe they will bring to the role. They will be taking on extra responsibilities in leading their houses and encouraging all their teammates to strive for success and fair play. We are sure they will great role models for their peers and superb ambassadors for our school. I know they were very proud when they received their House Captain badges in our 'Motivation' assembly recently.