



earls barton united fc

Newsletter

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Looking to the future

As we start 2008 it is an important time to look at the many difficult decisions being made in football in particular those that affect our Under 16's, not just the lads who play at present but also the lads who have moved on to better things.

As a club we have to decide how many players will stay on until they are 18 and which leagues we need to apply to. Of the 40 players we have at this age group most will be pressurised by work, relationships, higher education and adult football clubs to leave our club. We therefore have to ensure that we can offer them a total football environment including social, psychological and physical challenges as well as their technical development.

As a club we have failed previously to exit our teams from U16 to adult football in a sustainable manner and this has left the club with difficulties. We hope to correct this with the introduction of under 17 and 18 football at a competitive level. This will involve a lot more work and finance but we are sure it will benefit the club in the short and long term.

It is an important time for U16 players for another reason; this is the time when professional clubs make their decision on football scholarships. We congratulate Troy Farden who has just achieved a scholarship with MK Dons and to Aynsley McDonald who has his scholarship with Rushden & Diamonds.

We also have Justin who has commenced trials with MK Dons and Luton and wish him good luck in his ambitions. Finally we also wish Jake, a year younger but still in the U16's who at Christmas was offered a step up to trial at Luton's academy and Ashley, our keeper who is awaiting the result of his trial game at Luton.

The club recognises the contribution that ALL the U16's have put into Earls Barton over the years and would like to thank them for their efforts.

We would like to reiterate to all our age groups that you all grow at different rates, you will all suffer from loss of form at times and you will all go through growth spurts but if you keep persevering and you work through times of trouble you will achieve heights that you will never achieve by giving up. **Antony Owen - Chairman**



Veterans Update

The club's Veterans team have had a couple of good results over the past couple of months.

They beat a Saturday mixed 1st/2nd team 5-4 on New Year's Eve with Lee Burrows netting a hat-trick. Red faces all round for the senior team! And in their last fixture managed a fine 4-2 victory away over unbeaten and top of the league Stony Stratford - "the last time that I grace a pitch for nearly 90 minutes - and that's official!" says Gary Mills - Manager.

Net Pegs Required

We are in short supply of net pegs once again.

If you are able to offer your assistance in helping to make some or know of anyone who would be willing to make some for the club then please contact Angie Foster on 01604 466265.

Boys Cup Update

The **U12 boys** beat Stanwick Rovers to keep them in the League Cup and await their next draw.

The **U16's Greens** are still in both their League and County Cup Competitions. They have drawn Rothwell in the next round of the League Cup. Their recent win against Duston Knights in the County Cup saw them through to the next round. They now meet old rivals Hellenic in the semi final round to be played on the 9th March at Hellenic.

U9 Christmas Party

This picture shows Dave Carvell's U9 at their Christmas party, 2007, sporting their brand new tracksuits which were **sponsored by Hevey Building Supplies, Mark Mulvey.**



Girls Update

The U14 Girls bowed out of the County Cup at semi-final stage in their game against Peterborough Diamonds. The girls played well and although the eventual score line was 7-1 it was a much closer game and they had the opposition worried until half time. Peterborough are a strong side who now play in the Cambridge league and they all commented on how much our team have improved in the last 12 months. It was a very entertaining game enjoyed by all parents that made the trek across the county.

The League Cup, however, is a different story with the girls beating Corby Kingswood in a 9-1 thriller!

The U15 Girls are always improving, winning their first ever game in the League Cup 1-0 over Rothwell Town. Congratulations girls!

Mens 1st team match report from Saturday 5th January

Rushden & Higham United 6 v 0 Earls Barton United FC (Junior Cup Quarter Final)

Earls Barton FC were a credit to themselves, the village and the Combination league despite going down 6.0 in the Junior Cup Quarter Finals to a team who play three levels above them.

Barton started the game by playing some of the best football that has been seen this season. Unfortunately it only lasted 5 minutes when Kris Hall netted the first of his five goals during the match when the defence was beaten by a ball over the top. Barton battled on and Nathan Jones playing on the right hand side caused problems for R&H FC putting in some telling crosses that the Barton forwards just struggled to get on the end of. This was the story throughout the whole game where Barton probably had 60% of the ball possession throughout the whole match but just could not convert any chances. R&H FC on the other hand seemed to score at every attempt they had with Kris Hall being the main thorn in Bartons side. Hall had his hat trick by half time and went onto score two more in the second half. Karl King added the sixth. Barton never ever gave up this match and any of the visitors who came over to support will back up that at times we were the better side. The whole squad were an absolute credit. Two players deserve a special mention as they really stood out and they were **Callum Ward** and **Ben Harte**.

Sports Association Annual Draw

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that sold raffle tickets for the sports association annual draw.

A list of prize winners has been published in Barton Today and is also available for you to check out on the website:

<http://www.ebufc.co.uk/xmasdraw.html>

Over **£1400** was raised for Sports Association funds!

England v Scotland Wembley, April 2008

England's U18's will be taking on rivals Scotland on 26th April at the new Wembley Stadium.

The club can apply for tickets at £25 each. If anyone is interested please **contact Geoff Cleaver on 01604 466366 ASAP.**



Please help us to keep our information up to date. Any team/club information, news or photos you wish to put forward, simply email Gen (gen.aldrich@googlemail.com) or Caroline (caroline.kendhammer@hotmail.co.uk).