

# AFC Oakley M&DH



End of Season Summary  
2016-2017



# Roll Call of Achievements

U9 Pumas: Promoted to MKDDL division 1; MK Dons Tournament – Plate Runners Up

U10: Bedford Borough Team of the Year - Winners

U10 Panthers: Promoted to MKDDL division 1

U10 Lions: Promoted to MKDDL division 3

U11 Jaguars: MKDDL Cup D – Winners; Cranfield tournament - Runners Up

U11 Panthers: MKDDL Cup – Semi-finalists

U11 Blues: League Cup – Semi-finalists

U12 Knights: MKDDL Plate – Semi-finalists

U13 Steelers: MKDDL Shield – Runners Up

U15 Saints: Chiltern Div 1 – Runners Up; League Cup - Runners Up; Stony Stratford tournament - Runners Up;

U17: League Cup – Runners Up

Adults Sat: Beds League – 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Cup – Semi-finalists

Adults Sat (reserves): Watson Shield - Winners



## U6

The inaugural season for the U6s and their coaches has been a great success with over 20 players registered.

It has been a pleasure as coaches to see them develop from headless chickens to young players who are understanding the game, developing and progressing their skills, but most of all loving to play football and falling in love with the game!

For some of our U6 coaches it was our first time coaching or taking on a role such as this, it has given us all a great sense of pride and achievement and we can't wait to see them all return with the AFC Oakley U7s next season!



## U7

Our second season has seen the progress made last year continue as the Saturday training sessions became more focussed on preparing the players to take part in their first ever friendly fixtures.

A number of games were organised throughout the season and it has been great to see the players develop their skills and understanding of the game as the season has gone on.

During the whole season the commitment of players, coaches and parents in all weathers has been tremendous and all have played their part in creating a wonderful atmosphere for our players to train and play their football.

On the social side, the squad took part in their second 'Wild Survival Experience' at Marston Forest Centre back in March, which was once again kindly provided by our training kit sponsor SSG, and was great fun for all of those involved. Furthermore some of the players and parents also did a morning of 'bag packing' at Sainsbury's as an added fundraiser for the team.

On a wider club front, the U7s also organised their first mini's social event – the Easter Party. 115 children (players and siblings) across the minis age groups were in attendance and all contributed to another very successful fundraiser for the club.

The U7's players and parents also enjoyed the Christmas Party and the end of season Roley Moore tournament.

The players are now really looking forward to participating in their first foray into the non-competitive leagues next season when they become U8's and will see the squad put out two teams, the Falcons and the Eagles, into the MKDDL leagues.



# U8

The U8s continue to exceed our expectations. Throughout the season they have shown great skill, commitment and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and we are very proud of what they have achieved and how much they have developed over the year.

Overall, It has been a busy, challenging but ultimately rewarding season. Our highlights (both on and off the pitch!) include:

- Some fantastic individual and team performances over the season - culminating in a brilliant Roley Moore Tournament for our players
- Successful fundraising that has helped secure new clothing, equipment and most importantly a trip to laser world!
- Our first ever 'Kids coach Parents' session which allowed the players to put their parents/carers through a multi-skills activity session
- Organising the Christmas party for the Club's Minis section
- An inaugural tour for the age group to Bognor Regis!

Our journey continues next season with 7-a-side league football and two new teams - the Kestrels and Falcons. This change will lead to larger squads, bigger pitches as well as more emphasis on positional and technical play. We will also continue to provide opportunities for a wider group of players to develop with us at our mid week training sessions.

We will build on the progress made over the past 12 months with our players and parents/carers. Our focus in our coaching will be on developing individual skills, teamwork and professionalism. However, we won't lose sight of the things that our players tell us are most important to them - which are having fun, enjoying themselves and being with their friends.

Onward and upwards!



## U9

Another fantastic year overall for the group with fundraising like the now famed Curry Night, tea stall and others, leading to helping many kids get to our Camber Sands tour as well as tracksuits, kit and end of season parties

### Pumas:

Oakley U9 Pumas have had another great season, gaining promotion into the top flight after Xmas and continuing to play a style of football that prompted many opposition coaches to compliment us.

We took part in a few different tournaments and came runners up in the plate final at the MK Dons competition in May.

### Jaguars:

Oakley U9s Jaguars also had a memorable season. Gaining promotion after Xmas and playing some lovely football along the way. The kids and coaches have had a really enjoyable season and are already looking forward to what next season will bring.



# U10

This year AFC Oakley U10s were nominated by Beds FA for the Bedford Borough Team of the Year Award. And they won it!

There were 2 football teams in the shortlist of 10, plus other sports such as hockey, dodgeball and gymnastics. This is the first time in the history of the award that a football team has won. The U10s have 3 teams and took 26 players to Minehead for the annual tour, entering 3 teams, all of whom did very well.

The team organized the Oakley Festival of Football in partnership with Lincroft School, including 4 teams from AFC Oakley (3 x U10s plus 1 x U9s), Bromham, Clapham, Olney and a Lincroft School team. There are now 7 coaching in the U10s as the teams move to 9v9 football. To accommodate 9v9 football 6 extra players have been recruited to take the playing group to 39 player, 3 teams of 13.

Panthers:

The Panthers started the season in the second division and had an incredible run seeing them lose just one game in the run in to Christmas. The boys all developed in confidence hugely and we focused on playing the Oakley brand of passing football whilst encouraging them to try new things and be expressive.

Their hard work was rewarded with a move to division one for the second half of the season and although the boys took a while to adjust to the pace of the new league they represented themselves fantastically well with the highlight being a 2-1 win on the final day of the season coming from 1 nil down with just 40 seconds remaining.



# U10

## Lions:

The Lions started the season in the fourth division, they performed incredibly well and in a backs-to-the-wall performance managed to win 1-0 in the last pre-Xmas game to achieve promoted to the third division.

The team have given a great account of themselves and they never ever give up. There has been noticeable development of all players, this team is very hard to beat and has delivered some truly outstanding performances.

The highlight of the whole season was post-Xmas when the Lions scored a true team goal, the keeper rolled it out from the back and every single player touched it before it went in the back of the net.

## Jaguars:

The Jaguars had a tough start to the season. We welcomed 4 new players into the squad, and this meant we took a little time to settle down as a team. Four of the first five matches were lost, and this did not help the integration and team building process. We had some good individual performances but were not yet playing as a team.

However, the lads really worked hard and came together as the season progressed. They finished the first half strongly, winning the last 4 matches, although this did not prevent them from dropping down a league for the 2H. In the second half, the team continued where it left off from the first half, and put in some strong performances, enabling them to move up a league for next season. The highlights of the second half were consecutive 5-3, 4-0 and 3-0 wins over Hanslope, Linford and Linslade respectively.

Across the season we saw some great improvements from every player in the team. The goals were shared around, with 8 of the 10 outfield players scoring at least two goals each. It was particularly pleasing to see how much the passing and teamwork improved, and how the team got better at responding to set-backs such as conceding the first goal, and improved their support and encouragement of each other. The boys are looking forward to next year!



# U11

Jaguars (Saturday):

What a season it has been!!

Four new players were added to the squad this season and it took the team a little while to find their feet but once they did they were amazing. The children really gelled as a unit and with brilliant support from the parents were able to win nearly all their league games after Christmas.

This desire to win, combined with a well drilled sense of fair play, has culminated in the team winning the runners-up medals at the Cranfield tournament and then winning the cup final of the MKDDL Cup D.

Panthers (Saturdays):

Having gone down to only one coach after Andy Mann left last year, the season started off really well in Div 2 MKDDL - first 9 matches won 9 lost 0.

We then lost a couple of players including our goalkeeper and struggled for a month or two with indifferent results (mostly draws) to gain momentum after Christmas. We ended up losing in the Cup semi, against a team from the top of Div 1, 2-1 a good game where we only had 8 fit players that could have gone either way. We ended the season with a run of 5 undefeated matches.

Overall a good learning curve for all involved.



## U11

Blues (Sunday):

A good solid start to the season with a good undefeated run of 7 matches. Again we lost a couple of players including goalkeeper, and went on a losing streak which seemed to last forever - good football was being played but where shots were going in at the start of the season were now hitting the bar or post!

We recovered well beating two of our local rivals in the Cup to reach the semi final, where we eventually lost 4-0, again in a match that at first could have gone either way.

This aside we finished very well in the league and all the squad made myself and their parents proud.

All U11 teams – the Jaguars, Panthers and Sunday Blues are a credit to AFC Oakley and it's values as a Chartered Standard club.



## U12

Knights (were Saints):

Achievements for the season included finishing 4th in league, reaching the semi-final of the Plate competition (losing on penalties!), a 10 game winning streak and scoring 95 league and cup goals during the season (a team record).

So another strong, progressive and productive season for the re-named Oakley Knights. We welcomed two new players at the start of the season, both of whom made a significant contribution to the team's performances during the year. Half way through the season we were top of the league and cruising in the cup.

A slow start to the beginning of 2017 ultimately did for our title hopes, but the team went back to winning ways at the end to finish strongly and create solid foundations for the move to 11v11 football next season.

The whole team continues to play good quality football, with the right attitude, and in a fully supportive and encouraging environment.

Crusaders:

We had had a very solid season in 16/17, our last season playing 9v9, maintaining our division 3 status in a very tough league and individually the players have all developed very well.

We welcomed 4 new players who have been wonderful additions to the squad and now we're all chomping at the bit to play 11v11.

The Crusaders already have 4 very talented players ready to join the squad for next season and we're confident we can improve on our mid-table position next year.

The regular season has come to a close now, but we've entered the BPR Summer tournament that we won only 2 years ago, so we hope to win back that trophy for the club and kick start the 17/18 season in the best possible way.



## U13

Moving to 11v11 both U13 squads were able to successfully integrate a number of new players into their squads this year and off the back of a successful 2015/16 (3<sup>rd</sup> in Div 1 & 1<sup>st</sup> in Div 4) we entered into the season with real confidence, and good results in the pre-season grading games saw the Patriots placed in division 1 again and Steelers in division 3.

However, both squads had difficult league campaigns – the physicality of opposition teams being a notable issue – and despite a number of positive performances by both teams, the Patriots finished in 9<sup>th</sup> and the Steelers bottom of their respective divisions.

On the positive side however, the Steelers completed a great Cup run that saw them finish runners up to the Division 3 winners.

Additionally, the commitment and attitude of the squads, and their willingness to continue to play positive attacking football stood out throughout a difficult season.

With the move to a new league beckoning for next season, we look forward to further developing and building the squads and performances for next year, with the strong ambition to see the success that the boys effort and ability warrants.



## U14

Lightnings:

The team was promoted to play in Division 2 of the Chilterns Youth League, on the back of 4 promotions in 4 seasons.

Division 2 was always going to be a tough league and it was made even tougher due to injuries to key players during the season, resulting in us often having to play some players out of position.

But there have been many battling performances and some great results. The 6-3 victory over Mid Beds Tigers, after being 3-0 down, was particularly memorable.

The team has improved and grown stronger during the season - typified by our results against MK Wanderers. Early in the season we lost 8-1, but won the return encounter 5-3.

The team had a good run in the County Cup and in the league cup, we gave the winners of Div 1 an unexpectedly tough game. We even took the lead before their strength told. But our goal was the only one they conceded on the way to lifting the cup.

It was a season of transition off the pitch, and Ian handed over the coaching duties to Phil and Steve early in 2017.



## U15

Saints:

As first seasons go this was immense.

Starting off being Stony Stratford tournament runners-up.

The season started with us in Div 1 of the Chiltern League, most of the boys having had played in the Chiltern League before, but had never got close to winning it.

First 6 games 6 wins, then a U16 County Cup run - our 3rd game being a mouth watering tie against Mark Gibson's Oakley U16s played at OSSC - a 2-2 thriller that the Saints won 4-2 on penalties.

We lost two rounds later to FC Potton U16 2-0 a game which saw us lose our keeper for 8 games with a broken wrist.

This did not hamper our form though, going through until the end of the season with only 1 league defeat and two draws scoring 57 and letting in only 11.

Semi finalists of the league cup losing to Ampthill. Runners up in Div 1 in our first season together.

And looking forward to playing our home matches at OSSC next season as U16s.



# U16

## Allstars:

This was our first season in the MK Borders league (division 2) against new teams, on new pitches and with new referees and we finished a creditable mid-table in joint 5<sup>th</sup> - only 2pts away from 4<sup>th</sup> place and only 4pts from 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Our record was

Played 16; Won 6; Drew 4; Lost 6.

We had a better scoring record away from home; overall (including the Cup and Div1 'Friendly games') we were 47 For and 48 Against.

High points of the season were:

- > Biggest victories ... 6-1 & 6-2
- > Beating a Div 1 team!



## U17

Having stepped up to play Division 1 football, the U17 team only lost 4 games in the League & finished a very creditable 5th out of 11, only denied a higher position by 5 draws.

The team saved their best for a superb run at the League Cup. In the Quarter-Final, Oakley beat EB Lions 9-1 with Ollie Haylett getting a hat-trick. In the semi-final against Barton Rovers Blues, the team produced their best performance of the season to be 6-1 up after 30 minutes and went on to win 8-2 with Tommy Forster scoring 4 goals. In the final, against a very strong Bedford FC team who had won the league at a canter, Oakley played really well and went very close to a massive upset, only losing out 3-2 to a 96th minute winner.

In terms of players, we used a squad of 18 players, with all but 3 playing at least 18 games. The team scored a very impressive 96 goals at an average of 3.69 per game. Top scorers were Ollie Haylett, who had a fantastic record of 36 goals and 13 assists in 25 games, and Tommy Forster who got 22 goals and also assisted 21. At the back, we were affected by the absence of a settled back 4 & changes in the goalie, but there were still some great defensive performances & the team earned 4 clean sheets.

Congratulations to all the players and many thanks to all the coaches and supporters.



## U18

A challenging season for the team due to players unavailability for a number of games in the season.

Under 18 blues initially qualified for division 1 by finishing 3rd in a grading group of 8.

7 teams qualified for division 1, under 18 blues finished 4th in the table, winning 6 and losing 6, although 2 of these games were conceded due to an insufficient number of players.

The players have now finished playing youth football and hopefully will continue to play a good standard at adult football for Oakley.

Good luck to all players for the future.



## Adult Saturday

The Saturday Men's teams had another successful season with the first team losing on penalties in the Cup Semi Final and finishing 3rd ( 4 points behind the winners ) in the Premier Division.

They simply drew too many games, but one loss in 2017 out of 22 games showed they're still recognised as possibly the best side around.

The Reserves had a very tough start to the season, but once settled emerged victorious in the Watson Shield to bring some silverware back to Oakley.

Several youth players progressed into both teams and made significant contributions.