

UPTON JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

End of Season Reports
2021/22



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



2022 Presentation Day Timings



U5/6's	10:00-10:30
U7's	10:30-11:00
U8's	11:00-11:30
U9's	11:30-12:00
U10's	12:15-1:10
U11's	1:10-2:05
U12's	2:05-2.50
U13's	2:50-3:20
U14's	3:20-3:50
U15's	3:50-4:10
U16's	4:10-4:30
U17's	4:30-5:00

Girls Presentation Day 16th July

See Coaches for details

10th July 2022



Club & Team Reports



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Chair Person Report



Dear Members

This message to you all is my last official task as I stand down as Chair after three years and hand over to a very safe pair of hands in Andy Murphy who was voted as Upton JFC chair at the recent AGM, to lead the club and a very experienced Executive Committee to continue the success and grow the football base of Upton JFC. The past three years have been the most unusual we can probably all remember which has meant three seasons of disrupted football. Last season was, fortunately, less impacted but still faced disruption so thanks to all our Exec Committee, coaches and volunteers for showing patience and resilience in ensuring our football routines returned to as normal as possible. As a club, we rely on the generosity of all our volunteers and sponsors but are always in need of more support so please do speak to a member of the Exec if you know of someone who can either give a few hours of their time or provide sponsorship assistance.

Next season we should have access to two new facilities locally at King Georges V Community Sports Hub and Coronation Fields Hoole, which are much-needed additional venues for training and matches to support the growth we continue to see, particularly in our Girls and Footy for Females sections.

It is great that we are able to return to a club presentation day event in 2022. I am sure you will all appreciate the opportunity for the club to come together to celebrate the success and achievements of all the players across the club.

May I wish you all a fantastic summer break and best wishes & success for next season.



Sean Whitfield





Secretary's Report



It was great to complete our first full season for a couple of years with no lockdowns or terrible weather to stop us. It was also my first full season as Secretary and what a steep learning curve it's been! I have recently completed our affiliation for 2022/23, we now have 45 teams playing in 6 different leagues which makes us the largest grassroots club in the local area. Sadly, we've had to say goodbye to some of our junior and girls teams this year as not every team has had enough players and coaches to continue. This is always a shame and something we wish we could avoid. We wish all the players and coaches leaving this time all the best for the future.

As ever, Upton JFC is incredibly lucky to have such wonderful volunteers, players and families who invest so much time and energy to make the club what it is. With us being such a large club there is always plenty of work to do to keep everything ticking over and additional support is always appreciated. If you would like to get involved in the running of the club, even if it's just in a small way then please do get in touch and we can discuss it in more detail.

**Please feel free to drop me an email: secretary@uptonjfc.org
Eleanor Rowlands, Upton JFC Secretary.**



Eleanor Rowlands





Treasurer report



Hi All, and welcome back to the club presentation day, one we can all finally celebrate together, the success of our club over the past season. I am just completing my third season in the Treasurer role which has been an interesting and rewarding experience being part of such a large grassroots football club which gives so many within our community the opportunity to play football!

Now for the numbers bit.....

The club started the year with an opening cash balance of £38k and will finish the year with a forecast balance of £27k. A significant amount of this cash balance is made up of grants we are yet to use and will make use of in the next 2/3 seasons.

Commentary on Income/Expenditure:

Income from fees was £11k up on the prior year at £78k.

Pitch Hire has and always will be a major cost to us and this year we have seen significant rise to £60k, partly due to an increase in teams and also due to availability, pushing us to the more expensive options. We always try to balance quality and location along with cost and will continue to do so. Andy Murphy does an amazing job of securing venues throughout the season, this is a very significant piece of work with the number of teams that we have.

Resources spend is forecast to be around £13k for the season, which is an increase of £4k on the prior season. As always, any sponsorship for any of our teams is always welcome and helps to balance some of this cost off. Thanks to all of those who have funded kits this year. It is not something we take for granted and we very much appreciate all your support. If you would like to sponsor a kit next season then please approach your age group manager who will help to facilitate this.

Funding - We have been successful in obtaining several grants during the year from various sources. A big thank you to Sue and Eleanor who put so much work in identifying these sources of income getting our applications in. Also, a massive thanks to all parents who have aided and suggested any funds we could apply for this season.

Forthcoming Season:

Fees - At the AGM it was recommended and voted for the fees to increase for the forthcoming season. As an Exec we desperately wanted to hold the fees the same for another year but the increases we have seen in all areas have made that impossible to do. As an example, we know the cost of training will increase as all providers will increase their prices due to the huge demand for 3G surfaces in the local area and the additional costs they are incurring. One of our core responsibilities is to ensure that the club has a stable financial base making this increase necessary.

We will again require everyone to use the online option for registration, although other arrangements will be possible in exceptional circumstances. If you are having any issues, please see your age group manager.

This past year has seen us all returning to a more 'normal' pre-covid lifestyle and once again it has been amazing to see the amount of work put in by our volunteers. Thanks to all those that contribute to the running of Upton JFC and ensuring our community have a great football club that we can all be proud of.



Under 5's & 6's



The 21/22 season has been a great development year for Upton U5's & U6s. We have worked hard in training sessions and all of the players now have a greater confidence and ability with a football. The boys have made some good friends and get along well with each other during our training sessions.

They all work hard during training and thoroughly enjoy the games at the end of each session.

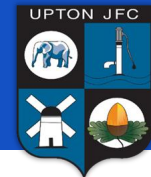
As coaches, we have seen their understanding of the game develop and the exercises are getting faster and more fluid.

At the end of May, we had our first games against another club. We played 2 teams of 6 a-side from Blacon. This will have given the boys a great taster of what's to come next season.

**James Doerr, Mark Hughes, Chris Connolly,
John Prickett, Adam Pudvine**



Under 7 Panthers



We have had a great season with the u7 panthers this year. It's been the first season of playing matches and the boys have really grown through the year. We have moved the team through the leagues finding our level, and have had a mixture of big wins and heavy defeats, but the boys have enjoyed the whole season regardless of the results.

As with all new teams we have had some ups and downs. A low point for the panthers was definitely a heavy defeat away in Tarporley (against Tarvin) playing on a pitch which reminded the coaches of playing on heavy grass pitches as a kid themselves. There have been many high points, such as seeing some of the boys develop playing as a team, passing out from the back from the keeper, defending corners and learning what it means to be, "goalside", and where the "back post" is.

Our highlight of the season as coaches was against Westminster Park, it was a great game and a really great performance from the boys. It sticks in my mind mostly because it was the first time all the elements, we had been working on came together and I was very proud that day!

The win against Newton was great too and the great comeback against Waverton was probably the best match of the season. We were 4-0 down and scored 3 goals in the last 5 mins to set up a genuinely exciting finish.

One of the most enjoyable days was the end of season festival at football at the Deva stadium and the boys win two games and drew two. There were some great goals, tense finishes and overall the boys and parents really enjoyed the day.

We thank and wish both coaches Matt and Charlotte all the best. Matt is due to relocate to Dubai with his family, and Charlotte is due to help with the girls' teams.

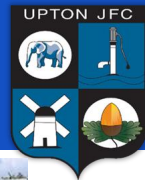
We are looking forwards to next season and will be looking to combine our training sessions with the pumas and the new jaguars team. We will be welcoming new coaches to the teams, and would like to have other people come forwards to help contribute in order to help make sure we can play our games.



Russ Butcher, Matt Whitehart & Charlotte Mcleod



Under 7 Pumas



It was a privilege to coach the Puma's in their fledgling year of team-based football.

I think all the parents would agree that the team that started the year to the team that ended the year was totally unrecognisable. The way the team has developed and the way that every player has improved has been incredible to see and we can all be proud of our boys.

Like every new team coming into match situations, the learning curve was very steep and will continue to be going into the years to come. We started the season in the yellow division by losing the first set of fixtures. This was due to the team getting to grips with the new match day environment, rules and set-up. My highlight of the season did occur during this losing streak when we lost 7-1. I asked the boys "did you enjoy the game" (as I do after every game) their response was an emphatic "YES!", "BRILLIANT!", "LOVED IT!", "are we playing again next week?".

It just highlighted the sheer enjoyment of playing football at their age no matter the result.

We found it a challenge to try and coach the kids about the basics - throw-ins, kick-offs, goal kicks etc. while the game was going on. It was too much information for the kids to take on board during a match. This is when Ant suggested taking a step back from matches and to train on the Saturdays instead, to get to grips with the basics.



As coaches, we could have more input into different game scenarios and develop the right training for the Puma's. We found this helped the boys immensely. We then started playing matches again but Ant suggested introducing a training session in the mid-week also. We could look at what we needed to work on from the game on the Saturday and then tailor the Wednesday training to suit these needs. As there was no designated training, we put it to the parents that if they wanted to have mid-week training then this would have to be paid for by ourselves. A big thank you to all the parents who contributed to make this happen as this helped in the next stage of development for the team and the boys simply enjoyed it as well.

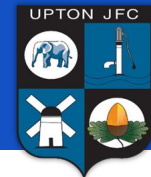
Rather than losing games by large margins we started to get closer games and started to draw a few games, lose a few (but by much closer margins) and win the odd game. One of the highlights was a 0-0 draw game against Blacon away. It was an end-to-end game and was the most entertaining 0-0 anyone had seen. We ended the season's last 8 fixtures by winning 6, drawing 1 and losing 1 including a 5-game winning streak within these fixtures.

A big thank you to the boys and to the parents who have been brilliant throughout the season. They have always maintained the right attitude and Upton ethos of inclusion, fun for all and treating people how you want to be treated yourself.

A special thank you to one of the Puma's parents -Richard Mangan. Richard kindly sponsored the kit for all of the U7's for his company 'Section 8'. As modelled by the boys in our team photos.



Under 8 Panthers



The Panthers have had a great season. We started the season in the yellow league but were soon promoted after winning most of our matches very comfortably. We ended the season playing in the red league, the 2nd of 4 leagues. Although the results have not necessarily always gone our way, the boys have played really well and given some strong teams really difficult games.

There has been a very noticeable improvement in the Panthers, both from individuals and from the team as a whole. The boys' work rate is second to none and their competitiveness shines through! The passing is starting to improve and that is something we'll be concentrating on moving forward, to further improve the team.

We ended the season with 2 great weekends. Firstly, with the Football festival at Chester FC, the boys had a great time, played really well and won all of their games! Secondly, the boys played in the Saughall Jrs FC summer tournament and were runners-up, narrowly losing the final on penalties – a great effort!

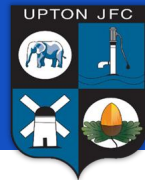
We're looking forward to next season and making further progress with the team!



Panthers & Pumas at Chester FC



Under 8 Pumas



The puma under 8 team has had a fantastic season in the blue league. Winning 15 games, drawing 4 and only losing 4 matches.

Watching the team progress this season has been a pleasure, and they have become a hard-working side who don't know how to give up and will fight to the end to ensure a positive result. This was evident in our latest friendly when coming from behind to 2-2 draw with Saltney Town of the Welsh league and when getting to the semi-finals of the Airbus tournament and being the last Chester-based side in the competition, narrowly losing to Mynydd Isa who were made up of mainly academy players.

The finals day at Chester allowed the boys to demonstrate their skills on the big stage and we look forward to next season where we expect to be a very competitive team in the Chester league.

We are also proud to have seen 4/5 boys move from the Panthers to the Pumas throughout the season trying to develop the team and the players. We would also like to wish good luck to the 3 boys who were picked from the Upton team to join up with the academy sides.



Under 9 Jaguars



The under 9's age group have gone from strength to strength this season, which has seen us go from 2 teams to forming a 3rd team, the Panthers, which has just formed at the end of this current season will enable the boys who need to develop their football skills and get match experience. We now have more coaches and helpers than previous seasons, which has given us more flexibility. We continued to train altogether as an age group, which has given the coaches a chance to try different training sessions and look at all the boys and assess their ability for next season.

This season was our first competitive season, whereby the boys played 7 a side in a league format which would then result in the top 4 teams, being placed into a knockout cup format. We opted to compete in the most competitive league, with two strong teams from Saughall and Waverton leading the way for most of the season.

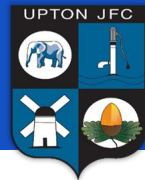
We qualified for the knockout stages and beat Newton 3 0 in the quarter finals. Both Upton Jaguars and Pumas under 9s had qualified for the semi-finals, which was a brilliant achievement and shows how much the age group has developed.

We then faced a really strong Saughall team in the semi Finals at Blacon high school, with plenty of family members in attendance, cheering on the boys. The game was poised at 1-1 until the last quarter, with seconds to go, Saughall struck the winner. Saughall went on to win the cup.

The boys have been brilliant all season, they always give 100% and have improved technically as footballers. As always, a big thanks to all the coaches and parents for there support and help this season.



Under 9 Pumas



It's been another fantastic Year for Upton Pumas U9s as we continue to develop as a team.

Having had real success in the yellow league in the first half of last season and then moving up into the red league, we saw this season as an opportunity to challenge ourselves against some really strong teams.

The season started well and we found that we had continued our good form from the end of last season into this one. The boys had been working hard in training on technique and passing and this was starting to transfer into matches where some of our build-up play was excellent. Moving into November/December and the start of the cup competition, we had lots of confidence and were looking forward to continuing our good form.

After winning our first cup game, the dreaded Covid kicked in however and we went through a spate of games where players were missing through illness or injury. This resulted in postponed games or games lost where the opposition could rely on greater squad depth to choose during the game. We got to a stage in early February where we sat second from bottom in our group and required 3 wins out of 4 to give ourselves a chance of making the quarter-finals.

It was at this point where a little bit of luck went our way and we could again utilise the whole squad. What followed was impressive wins against Tarvin, Saughall, and Vicars Cross, followed by a draw against high-flying Newton Reds where we played arguably our best football of the season.



This resulted in us creeping into fourth place in the group and gave us a spot in the quarter final against Chester Nomad Ambers. On a sunny Saturday morning the boys arrived at Chester Rugby club raring to go and after an hour of high quality end to end football we came away with a 2-1 win and place in the semi final. We were all extremely proud as the Upton U9 Jaguars team had also made the semi final.

Although we went on to lose the semi final to an impressive Waverton, we were happy with what we had achieved and believe it has given us the foundation to continue improving so we can aim for the final next season.

Throughout the season the parents, carers, friends and family of the team have been incredible and we cannot thank them enough for their continuous support. The coaching team of Mike, Rich, John and Paul have worked hard to ensure the boys continue to develop, ably supported by Andy and James in the Jaguars coaching team during training sessions. We have also had the help of both Luke and Alex, two U16 players who not only have become brilliant coaches for us, but also taken referee qualifications and committed to helping officiate our matches throughout the year. We cannot thank them enough for this.

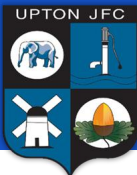
Finally we wanted to say a huge well done to all the Pumas players for all they have achieved this year. Ned, Edward, Orry, Joseph, Thomas, Izaac, Samson, James, Sammy, Sahib, Jerome and William have all been brilliant and made great strides throughout the year. Every player has impacted positively on the team and we are incredibly lucky to have them as Upton players. We are sad to see Sahib leave after his mid-season move to Manchester but wish him well in the move and hope he can come back and see us.

Well done to all boys. Enjoy the summer break and see you in September, ready to go again!

Mike Cloherty & Richard Graham



Under 10 Lions



This was our first season as the Lions and the boys have done themselves and the club proud. Some of our team had taken a break from football, some had not played for a club before, and some joined from other teams from within our year group. It has been a huge joy to see how quickly they gelled as a team and how well they have supported and encouraged each other. Every session we talk about teamwork, commitment and concentration and the boys have delivered massively week in week out. Every game was competitive, and the boys are really developing individually and as a team. As the season draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to Will and Freddie who have both made wonderful contributions to our team over the season. A huge thank you as well to Luke for the massive contribution he has made to the creation of this team and to the wonderful spirit that characterises these Lions. New members are joining the squad as we progress to 9 a side and we are proud to see the boys welcoming them into our team and showing them what it means to be an Upton Lion.



Under 10 Jaguars



As the dust settles on another season with U10 Jaguars, our coaching group look back on the season with a sense of pride.

Rewind three years to a friendly game we had before the start of a season. We played away to a team from a higher division and were heavily defeated. I remember talking to the lads afterwards, struggling to find the words that would make them believe positives could still be taken from the game.

Hard work, determination, desire, bravery, and courage saw the lads move on from that defeat and progress rapidly. Back-to-back promotions led us from the green division, through the yellow division and up into the red division for this season.

The season started well with a good result and the lads rightly gained confidence from a really good performance. That rolled into the next game and a derby win against our Panthers team instilled a belief within the group. Game after game the lads accepted the challenge, grew in confidence, and put together a run of results that saw us go top of the table.

The lads remained focussed and played each coming game with a new level of maturity.

As if it was meant to happen... Our last game of the season was an away fixture against the same team that had defeated us heavily three years ago. We hadn't played there since that defeat. A win would see us crowned champions of our division.

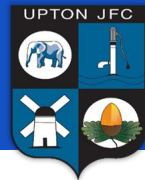
As the game started there were obvious nerves, but the lads showed their character and took the game to the opposition. Two goals gave us a commanding lead until we conceded a late goal from a set piece. The same hard work, determination, desire, bravery, and courage that had created this opportunity for the lads was enough to see the game out with a win.

Seeing the lads celebrate their success was the best things I've ever experienced in all my years supporting, playing, and coaching football. Six of the nine players that celebrated on the pitch had walked off that pitch gutted after that defeat three years ago. Now they were Champions.

It's a funny old game. Up the Jags.



Under 10 Panthers



It has been a superb season for the Panthers. The lads have continued to grow and develop as a team and are now really starting to gain in confidence and self-belief. Friendlies at the start of the season saw the boys struggle a little to put a run of victories together, but they were always attempting to play the right kind of football. The league started, and although we convincingly won the first fixture, we suffered two early losses, against Westminster and the Jags.

These two losses though were the last we had until the end of the season in March/April. That was an amazing achievement - to sustain that level, for that length of time, was superb. So, Will, Micah, Jack, Big Jack, Arran, Oscar, Khalil, Tom, Ollie and Oliver, thank you all so much for what you have done this season.

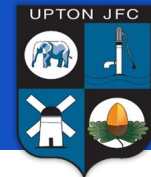
You have worked incredibly hard, built such a fantastic culture as a team, and produced wonderful memories for us all. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for us, as we move into 9 aside games. If futsal and the tournaments this summer have anything to go by, then we are in for another awesome footballing adventure in 2002/3!

Jon, Alex and I would also like to thank the Parents for all your support and encouragement for the boys - they are a great credit to you all. They are kind, respectful and full of love for the game. We have enjoyed every single moment of it.

Matt Hardacre, Jon Salem & Alex Taylor



Under 10 Pumas



I definitely did not expect to be writing this report at the start of the season! In what can only be called a very 'strange' season for the team I have to say how proud of the boys I am for battling through and making sure we completed the season. The lads showed great character, determination and skill to play most games since Christmas without a substitute and at times even a player down in a very competitive top league. The highlights for me were without a doubt holding CNS to a goalless first half with only 6 players before winning 4-0 when we had a full team of 7. Also, the must win match v Tarvin saw all the boys put in their best performances of the season and seeing triumph 2-0 with worldies from Jack and Akar ensuring we qualified for the knock out stages.

All the boys deserve an individual mention with Jack and Stan being solid and cool on the ball at the back, the hard working and direct wide players Evan, Freddie and Jago with Akar and Monty being outstanding through the middle showing great levels of skill. Also Oisin and George who were very late signings but played their part for the team at the end of the season. Hopefully by the time this goes to print we will have sorted how we move on next season and we can keep the team together, at this point we know Stan will be moving on and we wish him all the very best.

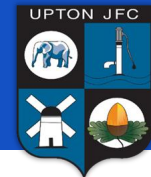
Thank you to the exec for all the hard work you do for the club, for the parents for your support and most importantly to the boys for all they have given this season, it has been a pleasure!



Andy Murphy



Under 11 Jaguars



It's hard to believe that the 2021/22 season was our first full, uninterrupted, season together since forming the Jaguars as Under 8s. So, after a few false starts over the past couple of years, it was fantastic to return to regular football.

Watching the boys' enthusiasm for the game, seeing them grow as individuals, and come together as a team, has been a real pleasure for us as coaches this year.

This time last year, we were left wondering 'what might have been', following another abrupt end to the season. This year that question was answered, as the boys really stepped up to compete at the highest level.

After a phenomenal start to the season, which saw us score 30 goals in our first 8 matches, the boys earned the right to compete in the top cup competition for the first time. Reaching the quarter-finals was a brilliant achievement.

Along the way, we played over 30 matches this year, scoring more than 90 goals, which is a fantastic effort. It is an effort that deserved reward and we were delighted to see that reward come at the end of the season, as the boys fought off tough competition to be crowned WINNERS of the 2022 Tarvin Tournament.



Being in a northwest regional league Beyond the brilliant football played by both teams, what particularly impressed us that day, was the phenomenal team spirit shown by the players who weren't on the pitch for the final game. They supported their teammates and cheered them on to victory. A real win for everybody.

As we look ahead to next season, Phil and I want to thank the boys for their efforts and commitment this year and we're looking forward to another exciting challenge. To those who will sadly be leaving us, we wish you the very best of luck. Thank you, also, to all the parents. Without your commitment every week, we wouldn't have a team.

2021/22 Season

Chester & District Cup U11s Quarter Finalists

Frodsham Tournament U11s Quarter Finalists

Tarvin Tournament U11s WINNERS

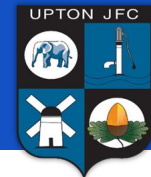
Well done boys!



Dan Gray & Phil Ashall



Under 11 Lions



WHAT A FIRST YEAR!!!

So, my first year at the club has ended up being a lot more fun than I had initially contemplated, with a small dash of hard work and commitment from ourselves, the parents and especially the players, it has been a season to remember. There is always a bit of apprehension when setting off on a new adventure, and with this being my first kids coaching job I didn't know what to expect. I suppose my only goal at the beginning was to bring all the boys together as a pack, get them to enjoy each other's company and get them settled as soon as humanly possible.

In the initial group of players, I could see straight away the potential was there, even though there was a wide range of ability and fitness, I could see the way they were with each other that it was going to be a good journey.

The Lions are a new team put together this year and finished second overall in the points available over the season, they reached the quarter-final of the shield narrowly losing 2-0 to Blacons top team. The team also scored 91 goals this season which was a massive achievement at any level.

We as coaches have really enjoyed watching the progress of the boys this season, we love watching the camaraderie, the way every player celebrates every goal together. You can teach skill, attitude and structure but you can't teach personality. Fortunately, our boys are all fantastic lads and full of personality. The parents have been awesome this season, getting the boys there for every session and game where possible. They have also made it easy for me as a coach with the parents' attitude being another factor in our success this season.

I have added 4 new players over the season which has made the squad numbers perfect now at 13. 3 other boys are coming to training but not ready just yet for games, but I will develop them over the coming months and try to filter them in when ready. I also took 3 of the boys down for a couple of sessions with Chester and took some fantastic training drills away which I now use with the boys. Between that and Barcelona passing drills on YouTube it has been good for development.

Lastly! I would just like to say thank you for all the advice from the coaches from the other 3 teams, thank you to all the staff who arranged pitches, kits, admin work, and anyone involved in the club. My son came with me to Upton lions this year and has never enjoyed his football so much. And met some lovely friends in the process. And thanks to my assistant coach Ruslan. We work well as a team so thanks buddy.



Mark Kerr



Under 11 Panthers



It should never be underestimated by the coaches in the years below us just how difficult this age group is. With the rules that come into play and the bigger pitches and the bigger goals it can be daunting for any team, and it was for us. However, the team, as they always do, got their heads down and put everything they had into learning the new rules and adapting their play to suit them.

I moved the team up a league last season and did exactly the same this season. It's a testament to their character that despite being in over their heads their determination to improve means that it doesn't matter what level they play at. They will find their feet.

We reached the quarter-final of the cup and narrowly lost out to eventual winners Waverton and participated in a tournament at Macclesfield Town and despite being grouped with several academy teams, narrowly missed out on qualification to the semi-finals by 1 goal and didn't concede a goal all tournament.

I truly believe that this season has really been a turning point for our team, and we can now really kick on and knowing what the team are like, there really is nothing that this team can't achieve.

As always I couldn't have done it on my own and the help that I have from Jonny and Leslie has been amazing. As has the support from the parents. They believe in what we are trying to achieve and I appreciate it greatly.

Dave Carman, Jonny I'Anson & Leslie Kuma-Mintah



Under 11 Pumas



This season has been a fantastic year for the boys. After much success playing in the Chester league from u7s, we decided to make the jump up in standard and join the northwest region of the Junior Premier League. This was a move to 9 a side and 80minute games. As a result, we bolstered the squad over the summer to increase our numbers and all the new boys settled in really quickly and were welcomed by all the existing boys which was great to see.

We made a fantastic start to the season and went unbeaten until a few weeks before Christmas which was a great effort by the boys. We were playing against established non-league academies like Northwich Vics, AFC Fylde and Vauxhalls but the boys were up for the challenge and had some great results. We qualified out of our development group and were unlucky not to qualify for the end-of-season finals tasting defeat to Stockport.

The second part of the season was also successful and whilst we had some challenging games you could see the development in all of the boys. Playing regular 80-minute games against quality opposition was definitely benefiting the boys and there were some incredible performances. The stand-out was definitely the 2.0 home victory against Vauxhalls where the boys played some fantastic football and the score could have been a lot more in our favour.

Being in a northwest regional league meant we had some travelling to do and I would like to thank the parents and coaches for the dedication shown across the season getting the boys to the games.

The highlight was definitely playing at the Etihad campus against Man City RTC. Hopefully a great memory for the boys.

I would also like to thank the coaches Gaz, Luke and Steve for the support across the season. Between us we managed to get the boys playing some good stuff and helped their development through the season. The time given by the coaches is very much appreciated.

This will be the last season for the Pumas which is a massive shame but we have been the victim of our success over the years losing players to academies and the jump to high school meaning some players are now not available on Saturday mornings. However it has been an absolute pleasure coaching all of the boys since u6s and I have to say I could not be prouder of how they have all developed as players and most importantly into great lads. Thanks again to all the parents for the support and all the coaches who have helped across the teams at our age group. Good luck for the future.



**Chris Melia, Gaz Kelly, Luke Hunt, Chris Dunseath
& Steve Deighton**



Under 12 Jaguars



Reflecting on the season as a whole and just want to say huge credit to each and every single player in the team, I can be harsh on the boys at times as I know what they're capable of but to finish second in another covid affected season and behind an exceptional Waverton team is a fantastic achievement and they should all be proud of themselves. To only lose 4 league games (2 of these we had numerous players missing due to covid) all season scoring 78 and conceding only 29 really puts into perspective how well we have done this season!

There have been some memorable games moments, meltdowns and goals. The boys certainly never fail to entertain and have done this with a very attacking style of football throughout.

A massive thank you to the parents who have been nothing but supportive throughout the season your support is appreciated massively!

Thank you to my assistants Finn and Rob they have both been brilliant and I certainly wouldn't have got through it without them I couldn't ask for 2 better people to help me and the team.

Also a thank you to First aider and the water lady Debbie you may not get called into action often but your help is appreciated.

Lastly a thank you to both our sponsors Dan at TFM limited and Lee at Cheshire Builders the generosity you have shown and I'm sure will continue to show is always gratefully received from us all.

I can't thank every single one of the boys enough for their efforts this season and now look forward to next season in division 1 which will give us some tough tests.

We have a host of new faces joining us and already can't wait to get up and running in our first season of 11 a side!

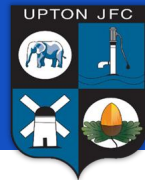
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Kyle Whitley, Finn Hickey & Rob Lark



Under 12 Panthers



Finally, a full season to report on. The Panthers lost a couple of players to the Pumas, our goalie, Christopher and creative midfielder Louis. However, Oscar joined us from Jaguars, then we got Harry S and Harry B who more than filled the gaps left by the departing duo. Our season started off with a high-scoring game against Hope Farm, where Harry S showed his skill with 2 goals, assisted by Isaac. Thomas got our other. Thomas was to go on and score in the next two games, with Isaac getting another 3 assists. Our first win was against Saughall, whom we went on to play 5 times this season, with a record of W4 D 1 L 0.

In December our record in the league wasn't ideal but we had had some close games and then had to play Waverton Wolves in the cup. We held them for the first 15 minutes then grabbed the first goal, Isaac sprinting from the halfway line and beating the goalie, however they showed their skill and in the 2nd, half peppered our goal, only to find Thomas in fine form, frustrating them. The final score was 5-1 but it flattered Waverton

In the league we took points off most teams except the eventual winners, Nomads Under 11's and Hope Farm. Nomads had a record of P 12 W 12.

The goals were coming in from everyone, with Oscar an engine in midfield, scoring match winners, Aaron contributing in key games and Christian practicing his long range efforts. The goal keeping duties were shared by a number of players, Thomas, Ollie, Tyler, Christian, Aaron and Fin.

Due to our defeat in the cup we had a shield game against Tarvin Stripes, the first game was abandoned after we got hit by a hurricane. The next time we played it was a real cup tie with the lead changing hands a few times. But at the death, Tarvin scored the winner with seconds left on the clock. Heart breaking for the lads after putting so much effort into it.

Our record for the entire season was
P25 W11 D6 L8 F55 A50

The team will not be continuing next season, but it has been a real pleasure to manage these lads over the last few seasons. They have a great attitude and just enjoy playing football. Also, a shout out to the parents who have been great in their support and attitude. Hopefully they stay in touch as their sons play for other clubs.



Under 12 Pumas



It's unbelievable to think that 9-a-side football has come to an end as the Pumas make the transition to 11-a-side game. This means a further increased pitch size and larger goals from next season. A greater sized squad was required, and I'm so pleased to welcome, Harry B, Thomas, Christian & Fletcher into the squad. As coaches, we have always tried to promote and develop talent from within the age group of Upton teams - with the latest additions to the squad a further example of this.

As always 'Thank You' to all Parents, Grandparents and close friends for supporting the boys throughout the season, including getting them to midweek training and match days. It is greatly appreciated by the team and coaches.

There have been many highlights throughout the 2021/22 season including...

Luke Proudlove, Louis Hardstaff & Christopher Neal joined the Pumas and played like they have been members of the Pumas squad for years. It's also been pleasing to see how much the team have welcomed them and made new friendships in the process.

Kyffins continued presence on the football field bringing fear into the oppositions minds every time he finds himself within 30 yards of goal. On several occasions, Kyffin's goals have changed games with positive effect whilst also regularly scoring multiple times in games.

The three goals scored in the 3-1 victory away at Waverton. Kyffin, Hugo & Jamie had their own 'Goal of Season' competition on that Sunday afternoon at Abbey Gate.

Christopher - The coolest shot stopping goalkeeper in Chester.

Jamie's 'Maradona moment' starting from within his own half dribbling past many of the opposition players before slotting the ball past a mesmerised Nomads goalie.

Winning silverware at the recent 'Vauxhalls' tournament with players represented from all three Upton teams (Panthers, Jags & Pumas).

The boys should be very proud of their achievements in getting to another cup final and finishing runners up in the League following a brilliant unbeaten run until the end of the season. The result in the final was tough to take but I'm sure in years to come that opportunity to play on the pitch of Chester Football Club will live long in the lad's memory.

Thank you to all the U12's coaches for their dedication, hard work, commitment and enthusiasm in providing a fun, safe and educational sporting environment for all the boys to continue to develop and enjoy the beautiful game at training sessions and on match days.

Finally - I wanted to personally thank and praise Graeme for his dedication in leading the Panthers in their final season. The commitment and sacrifices Graeme made to ensure league games were fulfilled and midweek training took place at the expense at times in not seeing Evan play football deserves a huge medal in my book...



Have a great summer break.



Under 13 Panthers



The 2021/22 season was something of a long-haul for the U13 Panthers as we struggled to find form for some periods of the season and experienced every kind of emotion possible as we won, lost and drew our way through the year.

After a disappointing couple of early season losses in a friendly and our opening proper game, the lads felt confident about finding their feet in the league and that came in a swashbuckler of a game against a Tarvin team we have always found it hard to beat and a thrilling 6-6 draw. But we immediately took a step backwards as we narrowly lost the next two before going away to Saughall and coming home with another draw and a point in our fifth league game.

Two very tight losses would follow, although by late November the lads found some form for another 6-6 draw away at Hope Farm before thrashing Saughall 5-0 at home the following week! When Malpas then scored with the last kick of the match to make the game 4-4 a couple of weeks later, we started to think that drawing games was just 'our thing' but then we put three back-to-back wins together and the wind was firmly in our sails!

A couple of unlucky defeats and another excellent win against a physical Malpas side brought us to the end of the season and a time to reflect.



Defensively, the Panthers were excellent this season; Joe bossing his area and making many an extravagant save while Oscar, Teddy, Elijah, Harley and new-signing Harry put their bodies on the line with some fine defensive displays. Across the midfield, Hamish, Jake, Marley, Ewan, Alex and newcomers Max and Ash were creativity and passion personified while up front Bryn, Eamonn and new team member Syd, caused mayhem among opposition defenders.

Ten different players found the back of the net for the Panthers this year, some for the first time in Upton blue and there were several absolute crackers among the 60 scored all season, but it was Bryn who led the pack with an impressive 14.

The main thing was that at times during the season we saw some genuinely outstanding football from this great bunch of lads and we integrated some excellent new players which makes the thought of next season all the more exciting.

One aspect of the Panthers group that never ceases to amaze and delight us is the brilliant support the lads get every week, home and away. Our fans really are the best in the league and on behalf of all of us, we'd like to say a massive thank you for that.

Thanks also go to our brilliant kit sponsor, Jason Berry and Simple Life whose generosity and support kept the lads looking smart and professional all season.

It was a roller-coaster of a season but it was great fun as ever and we look forward to doing it all again (but turning some of those draws into wins!) next season.



Under 13 Pumas



It is hard to believe another season has come and gone. This has been a year of huge progress for the U13 Pumas. The move to 11-a-side football, and longer games, plus moving up a division posed playing against new teams and new challenges, which they took in their stride. The team has established a firm identity of seeking to play football from the back, using the full width of the pitch and taking their goal opportunities when they came along. The coaching team are immensely proud of how the boys have worked hard in training and translated that onto the pitch on a Sunday afternoon. We also increased the squad size due to 11-a-side games, and the boys who joined have been welcomed by the whole squad and have settled in seamlessly. This assimilation is reflective of our squad values of inclusivity and ensuring that all players offer a truly valued contribution to our overall team.

If we look across the team, we see a fantastic group of young lads whom all work hard for each other, encourage each other, and have fun along the way. In goal this year, Ciaran Kenna made the position his own, with Oliver Gent deputising to cover. We started the season as a defensive three but moved to a back four around Christmas time. Our defensive unit was typically drawn from Aidan McArdle, Isaac Perrit, Danny Lee, Shay Walters, and Joe Taberrer, who snuffed out the opposition and were brave in possession helping to build from the back.

In the middle of the park, we would often play three in the middle to squeeze out the

opposition, the engine room of the Pumas was usually three from Obby Guinness, Charlie Harris, Danny Lee, Rufus Alagna, Oliver Gent, and Charlie Evans. They worked hard to disrupt the opposition, win back possession and help us spring from defence to attack. The creative outlets were our wingers, striving to get in behind the opposition and create those opportunities for the centre forwards, the wingers include Cameron Tootle, Charlie Boyce, Logan Telford, and Tom Yates. Finally our centre forwards were Max Godley and Max Proctor, working tirelessly on leading the line, and supported by the wingers.

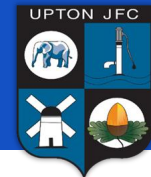
Amidst all of the attacking flair and creative football, there were some real highlights. Who can forget playing against Tarvin in the first round of the cup in a freak snow storm, stopping the game to create visible lines on the pitch, and our parents playing spot the ball from the sidelines? The effort and camaraderie that day was replicated throughout the season, we played a thriller against Waverton in the Shield which after extra time went to penalties. The heroics from Ciaran that day will be long remembered. This took us through to the final of the Shield and a tough game against Hope Farm, but each and every one of the boys gave 100%, but we just couldn't bring a trophy back home. We didn't have long to wait though, as we submitted two teams to a five a side tournament and one of those brought home the trophy, with a special mention to Tom whose scored the winning goal in two games during the knockout phases.

We will look to build on the successes of the 2021/22 season, the boys will all have a well deserved break over the Summer, before we come back together with renewed optimism and enthusiasm.

Finally, a few words of thanks, firstly for the Exec Committee who do a great job keeping the Upton wheels turning, and of course, thanks to the players themselves and their travelling supporters (parents, pets and grandparents). See you all next season as the journey continues once again.



Under 14 Panthers



After the difficulties we've all faced over the last couple of years, it was great to get the boys back to a full season again of competitive football.

I have to say that the boys have excelled this season and played some great football that both coaches and parents are immensely proud of.

We did finish in an expected 4th place in Division 2 but what was most impressive was how we have closed the gap on the three former Division 1 teams that finished above us.

All three teams were made to work hard for their points and we were unfortunate not to come away with something.

In addition to that it was great to see that we scored more than conceded across the season, so credit to all departments in both halves of the pitch.

In the Cup we were easily beaten by Newton, which I guess was to be expected with them ending the season as Division 1 champions, but in the Shield we were drawn against Division 1 Blacon where we pushed them really hard and were unlucky to lose the game.

Overall the improvement in the style of football we have been working hard to instil in the boys is finally paying off, with some fantastic performances across the season where the confidence and self-belief were clear to see throughout the whole squad.

The next season couldn't come soon enough and hopefully, the boys can carry on where they left off, demonstrating how well they play as a unit and showing the confidence and determination that is currently serving them well.

Finally, I would like to thank the following people -

Andy Phelan for his support as he has become a great mentor to me having previously coached at a higher age group level.

Patrick Conway, who started coaching at the same time as I did, has decided to step down this season and will be missed. Thanks, Patrick. We need a new statistician now to work out all the calculations!

Most of all the parents. Your support is greatly appreciated and I hope the boys will continue to keep you entertained going into the new season.

And finally to all of the 19 grumpy teenagers who provide the highs, the lows, the nail-biting performances and for sometimes driving me to despair. I've coached a lot of you since the age of six and it makes me immensely proud to be part of all of your footballing journeys. Keep it up!

Gary Woods & Patrick Conway



Under 14 Pumas



Firstly, thanks to the club exec, our sponsors 'The Mayflower' and 'VM Events', the coaches, parents and most importantly the boys for playing their part in making sure being involved with our team is such an enjoyable experience. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable season, and all involved have been delighted that we have had a full season of football! The boys have been a pleasure to coach, and it has been great to see them grow as a team and generally as a group. As individuals the lads are progressing well and overall, the team is developing nicely with maybe a little more ruthlessness at each end of the pitch needed in certain games to really kick on. If the boys continue to work hard at training and maintain the correct attitude, then I am sure we will have an excellent season next year.

We have had some outstanding performances and some of our games with Waverton and CNS and also Blacon away in the rain really stand out in the memory, on our day we can beat any team in the league!

I think it is only fair to mention some individuals who have really impressed this season with Robbo and Josh taking their play to the next level, Ryan has been excellent when available, the midfield 3 of Joe, Alfie and J consistently being among our best performers and Jackson and Ed for their performances up top. Unfortunately, we say goodbye to Jackson, Jacob and Alfie and we thank them for all they have given to the team and wish them all the best in the future. We also see Dave leave our coaching team and again a massive thank you for all you have done over the last 9 years!



Andy, James, Dan, Luke, Graham and Dave



Under 15's



The season started in September with a Covid delayed final of the Saughall Summer Tournament vs Christleton New Scene with the majority of last season's U14's playing a very close evenly fought competitive game which ended 2-2 after 70 minutes and straight through to Penalties. We eventually lost 4-3, which was a tough way to end it, but so much respect to everyone who played throughout the tournament and to our brave penalty takers.

As with many teams at this age attending different schools and friendship groups, we then had quite a few personnel changes with some departures and welcoming quite a few new players, a number who played at Newton the previous season to form the 2021/22 U15's. Covid isolations continued to hamper player availability as did a reformed 1st Division with 7 teams which meant frequent blank weekends and establishing a rhythm was impossible and by the end of October we had only played three league matches.

It took some time to settle the team and find a good balance with many playing in new positions and the early season matches were tough for the players as we struggled to find more than 1 goal in a match and as the defensive and midfield players learned about new positions and about each other, mistakes and goals were conceded.

The half term holiday in October was a welcome break as the team bounced back and the performances and results improved considerably, with 6 matches played during November & December, Wins – 2, Draw – 1 and Defeats – 3, with two of those defeats by 1 goal and the other by 2 goals, so we went into Christmas on a more positive note and showing improving levels of performance and confidence.

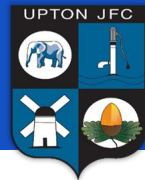
With Covid still featuring at the start of 2022, the return in January was affected by many player isolations, injuries and absences and our second half of the season was blighted by player availability and on many occasions barely a starting 11. This obviously made for some difficult matches, but the commitment of every player who turned out was commendable and the never give up attitude is a credit to them and how to play for each other.

We continued to train throughout March and April but with the league matches complete we only managed two further matches vs Saughall Black in April which were very enjoyable and competitive and again showed the potential the team has.

Huge thanks to Dan and Martin for their commitment & dedication to the team and club, not just this season but for all the other 8 years too. To the players, you have all developed as footballers and young adults over the past three difficult seasons, big thanks for your respect to everyone, your commitment and never give up attitude, success isn't always measured by winning, but how we grow, develop and learn and during a difficult season you achieved a lot.



Under 16's



After the last 2 years of not being able to complete a season due to COVID, we were looking forward to 2021/22 season with the hope that it could be played out in full. This season also brought a change in league formation, seeing our squad and a couple of other U16s teams join an U17s league, which we anticipated would raise the level of competitive games and test the boys, both individually and as a team.

After losing our first game, 4-3, to an U17s team we knew what challenges lay ahead and in addition to this the first part of the season saw us with a reduced squad each week due to some of our boys having covid. However, even with all these challenges all our boys played their part, with some fantastic football, keeping us in touching distance of the top of the table.

Over the winter months, we went on an unbeaten run of matches, with 9 wins and a draw, even topping the table for a short time. Unfortunately, this run of good form wasn't to last throughout the remainder of the season which gave us some mixed results, but our U16s boys still finished the league in a very respectable 3rd place.

Although we did not manage to win the league, the competitive nature of this new league and its challenges of playing a year up has definitely helped the boys improve their all-round game play and as I have said to them 'It is about progression not perfection'. Two of my favourite league games have to be: an end to end game with a 6-5 win over close rivals Newton U16s and a 6-1 win against a very physically strong Westminster Park U17s, both of which included some fantastic football, brilliant teamwork and some amazing goals.

The most pleasing thing for myself and fellow coaches is the feedback we have had from other teams and coaches in our league who have said that our squad play with a high level of skill and ability mixed with a great attitude.

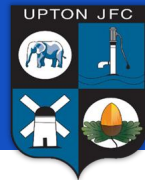
On the cup front, we found ourselves in a Cup final at Chester FC, once again competing against our rivals Newton. Although we were leading 1-0 at half time, with Newton scoring their first well into the second half, we were unable to hold on for extra time and lost in the final minutes of the game, 2-1.

Our boys have shown great attitude in both training and matches and have all contributed to a very memorable season, including 12 different scorers on the match-day scorecards. What a great bunch of lads they are and who we are looking forward to coaching again next year.

I would also like to thank all the parents for their continued support and to the coaches (Ricardo, John & Will) for giving up their own time to help coach the team.



Under 17's



Another successful season for the Upton JFC Under 17s who came runners up in the League and won the Knock Out Shield. A hard-fought League campaign saw us finish narrow runners up to Newton despite only losing two games all season and having the best defensive record in the League. Our success was down to our great squad, as injuries and suspensions meant we lost key players for long periods during the season. We welcomed in Ben Chowdhury, Joe Astbury and Cian Delaney to the team this season, and they all made a massive impact to the team. Ben through his goals and assists and Joe and Cian through their stalwart defending. Key highlights of the season were our resilience and never say die attitude, most memorably when coming back from 3:0 down at half time against Wessy Park in October to win 5:3, and again in the potential title deciding game against Newton, when we came back from 2:0 down to draw level at 2:2 and almost win the game (and the League) at the death.

But the greatest success was the Knock Out Shield Final when, due to a scheduling mix up, Tattenhall, our opponents from a higher division, insisted we start the game with just 7 men. We conceded an early goal and went 1:0 down. Bouncebackability kicked in and we ran out 2:1 winners and it should have

been much more as we swept them aside with our pace and power – a great win in very difficult circumstances.

Every member of the squad played a massive part during the season, and we have maintained the focus on ensuring all the team play a significant role in our success, as we have since the team started at under 6s. Our defensive record was the rock on which our success was built on, with our Captain Matt Robinson being a Virgil Van Dyke like role model through the season. Joe Carroll won the Golden Boot with 21 goals in 23 appearances which was a great haul at this level.

Many thanks to Mark Read who after many years of coaching has decided to retire at the end of this season and to Neale Darracott who hung up his coaching jacket earlier in the season. Myself, Mark Leaney and Mickey Carroll are excited to lead the team into their final season before the transition to men's football. It has been a great pleasure working with the team who have developed into fine young men as well as great footballers and also working with the parent group whose supportive and encouraging influence on the team is a vital element to our success. We will enter our last season with the same goals as we entered the first 12 years ago : to have fun, support your team mates and never give up.

Martin Lally Year Group Manager





Girls Overview



This has been an outstanding season for Upton JFC Girls with a number of firsts and sadly some lasts.

In June 2021, we ran our first Wildcats course for Reception girls with support from Jim, Phil, Andrew & Steve – the Wildcat roar will live long in the memory! This led to the formation of the first U6 training group, which the amazing Jenny, Will, Gerard, Mike & Chris have taken on; In May the girls played in local festivals in preparation for joining the Chester League at U7 in September, this is a great achievement and the first U7 local league for girls.

The U7 team has doubled in size over the year and played friendlies against teams from Chester and Wirral, there will be 2 teams entering the Chester League in September, which is very exciting. Thanks to Adam, Joe and Jay for their outstanding coaching and for supporting the U6's. We have recently welcomed Adam J and Mark to the coaching team, so a strong team is set up for the coming season.

Both the U8 and U9 girls formed 2 teams and played in the inaugural year of the Chester League which was a great success and the first time competitive football has been played locally. For the U8's we say goodbye, and a massive thank you, to Rosie and Dave as they are moving away from Chester; we wish them good luck and hope the girls carry on playing football.

There was a success on the pitch for the U9 and U10 teams, both winning their respective Mid Cheshire Cup competitions; and for the U12 and U13 teams winning their respective leagues; both with nail-biting finishes on the last day of the season. Well done to all involved.

Our U11 team sees a change in management as Phil steps down after 5 years with the girls. A monumental effort, during the evolution of the game in Chester. Thanks also to Richard who has supported Phil for the past 3 years. Simon, Ryan and Ben will be taking the team forward, ably supported by Mick and Charlotte. Exciting times ahead as the team moves to 9 a side and all the excitement the offside rule will bring!

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our U15 and U17 squads, the U17's led by Dave, John and Chris have had a year of training, and Rich & Gill have managed the U15's in the Mid Cheshire League; but for both age groups, the numbers of girls and the structure of the league is such that these teams are finishing this year. It is good to see that the U15 girls who want to continue are doing so, albeit with other clubs.

Many of the girls from both teams have had a 6-year journey with the club; but for all, I am sure many friendships have been forged and precious memories made for both players, coaches, parents and supporters.

For the coaches, Chris Avery was the first coach to step up in 2016 when we started girls' football, without Chris the team would never have started, so a very big thanks to him. For Dave & John, who coached their son's team before the girls, it really is the end of an era, Upton JFC won't be the same without them. In the U15's Rich started coaching in January 2018 and Gill joined shortly after; their contribution to the development of the girls and to the club has been immeasurable. They are all leaving the club with thanks that can't really be expressed in words; what they have done for the girls is impossible to quantify.

Wishing all our volunteers, parents, players, and supporters a relaxing summer, see you next season. Sue



Sue Terry



Under 6 Girls



The Under 6 girls started a year ago in the Club's first summer course for Reception girls and throughout the season the group has grown to 17 girls!

As coaches, our main goal has always been for the girls to have lots of fun whilst at training & to enjoy the sessions. I think they have certainly done that over the season & they have made us smile as well!

We have seen a real willingness for the girls to get involved in the sessions and take on advice. They listen very well and all contribute to a positive environment. It has been a real pleasure to see them grow in confidence and develop their football skills through fun drills and games, we are very proud of their commitment, particularly during the very cold months over the winter.

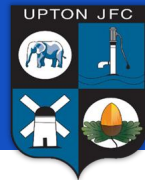
The girls all have good core skills with regard to ball control, dribbling and shooting. Passing & awareness are areas to develop in the future, but if the girls carry on their current trajectory, they will master these skills in no time & we look forward to helping them. Keep up the great work Wildcats!



Jenny, Gerard, Will, Chris, Mike



Under 7 Girls



Boys beware; these Wildcats are showing football is not just for you.

As a group, we have shown real development this year. Our enthusiastic girls have progressed from ball chasers to young football players. We have started regular matches and this team has risen to that challenge, won plenty and always played with a smile on their face.

We expanded greatly this season both in players and coaches. These new team mates have fitted in seamlessly and it's difficult to remember a time before they were here.

The girls in this team show the coaches every week what is most important. To try your best every session, work together and always do it with a big cheeky smile. We are very proud of them. Well done Wildcats.



Under 8 Girls



It's been a brilliant year for the U8s; the girls continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, energy and developing skills and it has been fantastic to see them grow and have a lot of fun as they train and play together. Five new players joined the team at the start of the year so the group was divided into two teams for matches - U8s and U8 Pumas, and training remained together.



The Pumas have bonded well as a team and always bring a lot of smiles to the pitch! They joined the Chester League and we were very proud of how they conducted themselves during games - always enthusiastic and friendly and they tried really hard, whether they were winning or losing. It's been amazing to see their skills develop over the year as well as their understanding of the game. We've seen some spectacular dribbles, great passes, amazing shots, brilliant last ditch tackles, and some outstanding saves! Every player should be really proud of the improvements they have made and how they have contributed to the team. Dave & Rosie



The U8 team has shown strong development through the season, playing games in both the U8 Chester League and against U9 development teams; the enthusiasm and drive to improve is second to none and it's great to see the girls discuss how they can improve as footballers and come up with solutions to situations on the pitch. There are always smiles, no matter the score and they are always supportive of each other. As the group has developed and gained confidence, we have seen some highly entertaining games and all the girls should be proud, they are ones who put training into practice and I have no doubt that next year that they will continue to progress with their abilities.

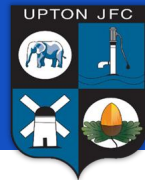


As always many thanks to all the parents for their support and excellent cheering!

Ruel, Julia, Dave & Rosie



Under 9 Girls



It is hard to believe another year has flown by, and it is great to look back and reflect on the development of this young group of fantastic players. As a coaching team, we are proud of how the players continually support each other, work hard in training, and most importantly, have lots of fun along the way. We had the benefit of playing matches weekly at Goals this year, and we believe weekly games have resulted in a major leap forward in the confidence and abilities of all the players. The small-sided (5-a-side games) resulted in fast-paced games on small pitches, with all players having lots of time on the ball. The U9s girls continue to go from strength to strength, and this year due to burgeoning numbers we were able to create two teams (Pumas and Panthers).

Team Panthers – Olivia Stockton, Emily Stockton, Mia Wilson, Mia Jenkins, Flora Taylor, Ellie Smith, Katie Spellman, Isla Rogers, Andrea Arechaga, Lola Hope.

This was the first season for the Panthers as a team and what a great one it has been. It's been a pleasure to see the girls grow together as a squad and really start bringing the skills learnt in training onto the pitch. Lots of passing, moving into space, supporting each other, and shooting at every opportunity.

The only thing left is to bring their training voices onto the pitch!

This season has really seen the girls shine, giving so much effort, really encouraging each other and showing fantastic team spirit. Plenty of goals spread across the girls from Elizabeth, Olivia, Flora, Emily, Isla and Andrea, however it takes a real team effort and every one of the girls really played their part. Whether they won or lost a game, there were always big smiles!

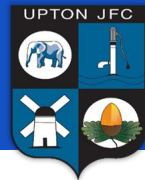
We've tried to rotate the girls in different positions, and we are starting to see where they really shine. Ellie, Isla and Katie have been strong in defence and covered each other well. Mia Wilson, Mia Jenkins, Emily and Andrea have battled well in midfield and supported the team up and down the pitch and Olivia and Flora have shone up front. We have recently welcomed Lola to the team who has settled in really well and always has a smile, we look forward to seeing her develop and play more matches next season. At the end of the season we say goodbye to Olivia and Emily and wish them good luck with their football journey.

Paul & Steve

Jim, Chris, Paul & Steve



Under 9 Girls



Team Pumas - Anwen Hughes, Varshini Vijey, Abigail McArdle, Evie Disley, Elizabeth Rose, Elodie Toy, Poppy McKenna, Chloe Van Kalles, Charlotte Stone

As a team, we have always sought to rotate players to enable them to learn as many positions as they can, but even at this age we can see players showing a preference certain positions. We used one of two players between the sticks for most games, Abi and Varshini, both acting as sweeper keepers coming out to act as an extra defender, and when not in goal both were superb in midfield or attack. Anwen was the bedrock of our defence when we typically played one at the back, surging forward at times and resolute in defence.

The midfield engine room was typically drawn from Poppy, Chloe, and Elodie, who ran with boundless energy to create chances at one end and stifle opportunities at the other, whilst the attack was typically led by Elizabeth and Evie, taking their chances when they came and dropping in to help midfield when needed. We had the benefit of having goal scorers from across every team member all season regardless of their positions, which is a testament to the players, but as Chris and I would always say, creating goals and goal opportunities is as important as taking your chances.

There were some wonderful passages of play, as we passed from goalie to defence, through to the midfield and onto the attack. It is great to see the players applying on the pitch the hard work they learned on the training ground.

The girls capped off a fine season in the league by winning the U9s Cheshire Cup in a tense final against local rivals Chester Nomads. A massive well done to the girls who were superb throughout all their league games and especially the knockout competition.

As a club we are committed to having more girls playing football, and so it is great to see Charlotte joining the team and we look forward to her playing in more games next season.

Thanks Jim and Chris

Thanks from the Pumas and Panthers

Finally, a few words of thanks, firstly to Sue for her unwavering continual support for the girls' game, also for the Exec Committee who do a great job keeping the Upton wheels turning, and of course, thanks to the players themselves and their travelling supporters (parents, pets and grandparents). See you all next season as 7-a-side football beckons, and one thing for is certain, we will all have lots of fun along the way.

The U9 Coaches Team

Jim, Chris, Paul & Steve



Under 10 Girls



It's been quite the season for the Upton JFC U10 girls! At the time of writing, a total of 36 wins, 3 draws and just 4 losses across the season, winning against every team in the league at least once. A huge 115 goals scored and just 25 conceded, with 23 clean sheets. Every player in the squad has scored with 5 reaching double figures - Hotshot Megan was our top scorer with 25 goals, followed by Elsie and Lyra on 15, Hattie on 14 and Katie with 11.

Without a doubt, it takes a team effort to make the season such a success and all the girls should be very proud of themselves as they have played so well - passing, pressing and tackling brilliantly. Connie and Lyra - the midfield maestros, Katie's unbounded energy, Liana's cool penalties, Hattie's thunderous left foot, Kiera's monster throw ins, Sophie's never-give-up attitude, Elsie and Nell weaving through defences, Amélie-Rose popping up all over the pitch when needed, Cora 'The Coach' brilliantly leading training sessions with 'unique' drills, Lois 'Can I be striker?' Roberts and sharp-shooter Megan scoring for fun. They are also beginning to have a preference for positions which will be great for next season and focus for training.

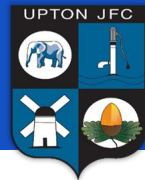


Of course, the highlight of the season was winning the Mid-Cheshire Cup on penalties vs the old nemesis, Crewe Vixens. After an extremely tight match ended 0-0, it was really impressive to see the girls volunteering to take a penalty with nerves of steel and Nell on top form in goal, they won in sudden death 8-7. The girls also participated in the Frodsham Tournament, with a really strong showing in a tough group. There were outstanding team performances, especially against the eventual tournament winners.

As a coaching team, the girls have been so much fun to coach, and we are really looking forward to seeing them develop further next season. As always, thanks to the parents for their support, both bringing the girls to matches and training, as well as their positive cheering from the sidelines. Our thanks too to Sue for all her support and organisation for the girls squads.



Under 11 Girls



It's been a very successful year for the U11 girls, a strong start to the league season at Moss Farm saw the girls streamed into a tough division in the New Year, the move to weekly matches has certainly helped the girls develop. Their enthusiasm and willingness to learn new skills is what makes coaching the team such a joy. With the girl's moving to a 9v9 format next year, coaches have been working on developing the girl's positional play and we are very fortunate to have so many versatile players capable of playing in several positions. With the new season approaching, the introduction of the offside rule has led to many interesting coaching sessions down at Wealstone Lane and after arranging several 9v9 local friendly matches, the girls are in a strong position for next season.

After 5 years of coaching the team this is the final season for both myself and Richard. It's been a privilege to watch the team grow and develop. The future looks bright for all the girls and I wish them all the best as they move on to secondary school and beyond.

During the season we've welcomed Lucy, Isobel, Connie & Ruby to the team and in recent months new coaches have stepped up to support the squad; it's such a positive to see so many girls get the opportunity to enjoy grassroots football at Upton JFC, and there's much to look forward to in the 2022/23 season.

As always, a massive thanks to all parents and supporters who bring players to training and matches. Special thanks to the new coaches who have stepped in to lead the team into next season. Phil

Phil, Richard, Simon, Ryan, Ben



Under 12 Girls



Well where do I start? What a season!

As well as starting High School, the biggest test for the match day squad this season was learning to play football without feeling intimidated by other players. After the initial opening league games the girls were placed in the Aspire division in the Mid Cheshire League. Although they got off to a tricky start, they soon started to play as a team showing what they are capable of and letting the football do the talking, eventually winning the League in spectacular fashion in the final game of the season!

All the girls have been great team players, and some have played in positions they aren't used to for the team. I would especially like to thank all the girls who played in goal; they did a tremendous job with only 13 goals conceded in 16 games, the lowest in the league, a massive thank you and well done. We are very proud of each and every one of them.

We have welcomed new players, Olivia, Georgie and Maddie and it's great to have so many girls coming along to training each week; all the players contribute to a fantastic environment, which is a pleasure to be involved with. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Ruby who is hanging up her footie boots to focus on her running; good luck with the athletics Ruby, you've been with us since the beginning, and you will be missed.



A big "thank you" to all the parents and supporters for their ongoing commitment to the club and for supporting us each week, I know the girls really appreciate this! It continues to be an absolute pleasure to coach the girls and be part of a genuinely beautiful, kind, caring and delightful squad. Massive thanks to Jaz for his support week in week out at training and matches and to Sarah for providing first aid cover and ensuring that the ice packs are always stocked up!

We look forward to whatever challenges next season brings and will continue to support the girls in building confidence and skill, whilst more importantly having fun and enjoying playing as part of a team.

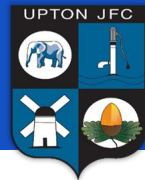
A massive well done girls, you are all amazing! Looking forward to next season and enjoy your summer. Laura



Laura, Jaz & Sarah



Under 13 Girls



This has been an excellent season with the girls finishing Champions of the Mid Cheshire U13s Challenger League. Throughout the campaign the team scored 70 goals and conceded 21. We welcomed Honey back to the team and new players Bobo, Sophia, Martha, Lucy and Anna; it was also great to see Grace Law return from injury.

The team started the league with two losses and a draw leaving us at the bottom of the table, however after Christmas the team improved considerably, both in terms of passing and pressing. Particular mention should be made about the improvement in the teams' defence; 13 goals were conceded in 4 games before Christmas, with only 8 being conceded in the subsequent 12 fixtures. The defenders developed to work well as a unit which allowed the team to build their attack. This resulted in goals coming from a wide range of players.

The league was competitive, and the players handled themselves well in a series of tough and physical games. At the end of March the girls had a return fixture against Congleton who were top at the time; the match was tense but the girls demonstrated great character and won comfortably, this showcased their improvement as the previous match in January had been a 2-2 draw. In 2022 the girls were unbeaten, seeing them rise to equal top place in the league and earning them a playoff match against Egerton, which they won 4-1 to claim the league title. This was the fitting end that the girls deserved as just reward for their hard work and determination throughout the season.

I look forward to seeing you all next season, enjoy your summer, Paul.



Paul, George & Janette



Under 15 Girls



Our first league game was back on 18th September 2021 against Waverton which we drew 0-0. We went on to play Waverton a total of seven times over the season, winning three, losing two and drawing two. The highlight of these epic games was a 3-2 away win on 16th October when we were two-nil down after 10 minutes but came back in the second half to win with goals from Grace Morton (2) and Mia. Another memorable game was a 0-0 on 4th December when in the final seconds of the game we hit one post and the ball then trickled across the goal line hitting the other post before the ref blew the whistle!



Just before Christmas, we had our best run of the season recording three wins and a draw over November/December. Highlights included a 3-1 away win at Holmes Chapel coming back from 1-0 behind and a great 2-1 win at home versus Appleton when Holly scored with a great header (our one and only headed goal in past five years)!

After the Christmas break, we had a couple of memorable results, including an amazing 4-0 win away at Waverton when Mia stole the show scoring a hat-trick. We were superb that day, best performance all season. Another notable result was a 1-1 home draw with Winsford as they were riding high and at that stage, we were still in with a chance of winning the league.



Top scorer of the season was Grace Morton with ten, followed by Mia with four, Holly with three, Ava with two and Elin, Annabelle and Kamila all with one apiece. Memorable amongst these goals, a great strike from the edge of the box from Ava away at Chester Nomads. Grace Morton scored a fantastic free kick versus Winsford which no keeper in the world would have saved. The Mia hat-trick against Waverton was memorable as was Holly Cartwright's headed goal against Appleton.

Whilst we did not win every game the girls always competed hard, and most of our games were close encounters. Our defence of Elin, Lil, Emmy and Grace Meenan kept six clean sheets. In goal Grace Dunn was solid throughout the season making some great saves including one amazing save against Crewe.

Isabelle, Ava, Tallula, Mia, Charlie and Holly all played majority of games in midfield working hard and remaining committed, scoring goals and assisting the defence. Kamila played centre midfield, always working extremely hard battling and winning the ball back. Up front Grace Morton kept up her great scoring run from last season with Annabelle alongside. Olivia played in every position, including as stand in goalkeeper! Her versatility was a great asset to the team and much appreciated.

The team will not be competing at U16 level next season as a number of the girls are not able to continue playing due to other commitments. Whilst this is a shame, they can take many great memories away! The good news is a number of the girls are going to continue next season or be it playing for other teams.

A big thank you to Gill for her commitment not just this season but over the past five years. In addition, a big thank you to Sue. The work she has done to ensure we have all the kit and facilities each season has been integral to running the team. Finally, thanks to all the parents for travelling the length and breadth of Cheshire over the last five years!



Under 17 Girls



It's the end of an era for our pioneering U17 girls. The first female team in the history of Upton JFC are bowing out after 6 years together. From a group of young girls who chased after the ball like a herd of excited sheep, they have developed into intelligent and accomplished footballers but more importantly, a superb bunch of young women who have been a pleasure to spend time with!



Jonny, Chris and I are left with lots of great memories: the heroics of Vienna, the midfield skills of Isla, Abi A and Cassie, the defensive grit and determination of Jessie J, Emma and Little Eva. The superb Captaincy of Kim and the 'Mother of the Team' - Kate. Rosie playing on with a broken knee, Abby C scoring with her ear, Soph buzzing around like an angry wasp and Millie going on incredible runs and banging in goals. This year we were pleased to be joined by Izzy, Chloe and Leah, who have worked hard and brought a new spark to the training sessions.



Thank you to the parents for all the support over the years. I know how proud you must be to see your girls working so hard for each other, supporting each other and showing great resilience – all skills that will serve them well in life. The girls have enjoyed their victories and been gracious in defeat; they are a credit to themselves, their parents and the Club.



Finally, thanks to Sue for her endless commitment to the girls' teams, Jonny for his boundless enthusiasm and Chris for continuing to help out whenever needed.

We won a few, we lost more than a few..... but laughed a lot! All the very best for the future from us all.



Chris, Dave & John



Footy 4 Females



What a fantastic season for our adult female teams. It's the 5th anniversary this month of the start of footy4females and we continue to go from strength to strength. It's also the 5th anniversary of the Inspire League, the recreational league for women's football that we play in once a month. This season has seen the mighty Blues, led by Sam and Sue, go unbeaten, topping the table with barely a goal conceded thanks to the defensive efforts of Sarah, Lou and Nicky. It's been great to see new scoring talent in the form of Louise, Laura and Kate aided by the OGs Cerys, Ash and Becky. Special mention to Verity who has cemented her place in the team having started in the Blacks. Thanks also to the girls who step up to make sure there are enough players and subs every month.

The Blacks have improved massively this season, currently sitting top of their league after some convincing victories. Every individual player has improved and we've been lucky to recruit some new ladies to strengthen the team. Rachel has found her shooting boots and aided by Yvonne, Gemma and Charli we've been finding the back of the net at last! Thanks to Sarah and Sam and the Blues that come and support us and share their skills and experience.

Here's to the next 5 years and enjoying the growth of ladies football at Upton JFC!



