



# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



Welcome back and a Happy New Year!

Lots has happened on and off the pitch in December and January and we hope you enjoy finding out all about it in this edition.

Before you go on though, here are some dates for your diary...



## **RACE NIGHT**

Saturday 2nd March

## **SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT**

Saturday 18th May

## **JUNIOR PRESENTATION AFTERNOON**

Sunday 19th May

## **GERMANY TRIP**

Friday 24th May – Saturday 1st June

## **CLUB TOURNAMENT 101**

Saturday 15th June

## THIS MONTH...

- Chairman's update
- Germany Tour
- Keep the support positive
- First Team on the march
- Reserve Team go from strength to strength
- Meet our Reserve Team coach, Ian Davies
- New year, new name
- Tournament 101
- Goal of the Month
- Safeguarding update
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Ain't no party like a Junior Christmas party
- Meet the committee – Sean Hinds
- U10s Girls Bristol Rovers Mascot Day
- Meet our new U6 coach, Gary Booth
- U7 Football Heaven!
- U12s – Thank you to our Sponsors!
- Q&A with our U12 Coach and Vets midfield maestro, Mr Scott Crossey
- They Think It's all Over ... 45s
- U14's given a golden egg by Goose Tech
- Current roles & Vacancies

# A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Hi

I hope that you all had a great Christmas & New Year. From a footballing aspect it's been a good start to the year with very little of the heavy rain that we saw in November and December. Long may that continue, so that we can keep our players playing.

At our first Managers' meeting of the year there was nothing but good news on how all our teams were playing and developing both individually as players, and collectively as teams.

We have a lot to look forward to this year, apart from the friendlies, league and cup games. I know that attendance at a number of tournaments is planned as well as our own internal tournament on 15th June (put the date in your diary- more details to follow nearer the time). We also have our visit to Germany on 24th May fast approaching. Spaces are going fast so if you are intending to go please pay your deposit as soon as possible.

Our main fund raiser, the T Hut, continues to go from strength to strength. A big thanks to Guillaume, Helen & Olive, plus all our other volunteers for running this service so well. If you want to volunteer for a shift (particularly during this cold weather) please let your team manager know.

As ever to all parents, grandparents, carers & friends thank you for bringing your children to our great Club - we would be nothing without you.

Andy



## GERMANY TOUR 2024 - ITS NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED!

Last few places remaining on the Tour Bus for this year's long awaited return to Germany. It is set to be a fun filled week of friendship, football and frolicking in the German countryside taking in their wonderful Bavarian sights ( and maybe some beer tasting for the grown ups!).

Don't miss out and have an "if only I'd gone moment" when we return. Link below to sign up. It's not too late. Thanks.

[www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk/germanyregistration](http://www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk/germanyregistration)



## KEEP THE SUPPORT POSITIVE

We have a brilliant community of parents and fans and as a club we are pleased with the way parents and fans support players. In respect to the juniors, it is imperative that we respect the way our coaches setup and ask a team to play and not look to tell individual players to go against those instructions as it totally confuses the kids/ young adults.

Please stay positive and respect the match officials, many of whom are under 18. We hear many stories from the FA and the football community of these principals not being followed and as a club, we don't want to ever find ourselves in that situation.

# 1ST TEAM ON THE MARCH

In the face of challenges, Kieran Smith and I were resolute in our mission to rejuvenate Winscombe AFC's first team, aiming to unite the club and reignite the passion for the game after challenging seasons.

From a meagre 7 players in our initial training session, the collaborative efforts between Kieran, Jory, Simon, and myself were often intense, but the hard work paid off.

Overcoming a shaky start with 11 goals conceded in the first two games, the return of Mike Hosey and Cal Murray, alongside the emergence of talents like James Tait and the youthful energy of Tim Stoves, significantly bolstered the team.

Individual brilliance has illuminated the squad, contributing to a renewed sense of positivity within the club. Cal Murray's heroics in penalty shootouts have propelled us into the semi-finals of two out of three league cups, showcasing the team's resilience.

Our decision to appoint Jory as team captain has proved fruitful, with his leadership both on and off the pitch, evident in his role as the top goal scorer with 12 goals this season.



As we eye cup semi-finals and potential promotion, the anticipation of an open-top bus tour through the village this summer signifies the positive trajectory we've set for Winscombe AFC.

James Lucas, Assistant Manager



## RESERVE TEAM GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The Reserves have gone from struggling to field a side and not being competitive to now having a young and much larger squad with competition in every position, which in turn has made us competitive against every team in the league.

A couple of examples:

We have gone from shipping 15 goals in 2 games against Coronation Utd to drawing away 2-2 in a game their players and manager came to me and said we deserved to win.

It has taken the team that is currently top of the league to score a wonder goal and a dubious penalty before they could beat us 4-2, in game we were very unlucky not to come away with a point. Again the opposition manager claiming that it was their toughest game this season.

## MEET OUR RESERVE TEAM COACH, IAN DAVIES.



### Q. WHAT PLANS DO WE HAVE FOR THE TEAM?

Continue working with First Team and Under 18 managers in developing younger players coming through the ranks, helping previously injured first team players gain match fitness, and also help current reserve team players reach their maximum potential, so they can be primed ready for a 1st team call up.

### Q. WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET FROM THE ROLE?

My personal development goals are to continue to work towards my coaching badges. I am currently undergoing the introduction to football certificate which will then allow me to pursue my UEFA C coaching licence. This is helping me and my team in bringing new ideas to team tactics, pre match warm ups and training drills for the first and reserve teams. I will continue to give 100% into helping Winscombe Football Club be as successful as it can be.



# NEW YEAR - NEW NAME!

At the Cricket Club's recent AGM it was agreed that the clubhouse, formerly known as "The Cricket Club", would be renamed "**Winscombe Sports & Social Club**" to greater reflect the usage of the building. This is a fantastic step forward in recognising how the sports clubs are working together for the good of all.

For those readers that are not aware of the history of the building and land at the Recreation Ground I will give a brief run through of how the ownership and use of the village assets works.

The Recreation Ground is held in trust and managed by the Parish Council for use solely for sporting or recreational purposes. The Football Club has use of the land on an annual agreement that has existed since the Club was formed. The Changing Rooms are jointly owned with the cricket and rugby clubs on a long term lease from the Parish Council. The clubhouse is owned by the cricket club under a long term lease from the Parish Council. The cricket club is run as a members club and anyone over the age of 18 that uses the facility must become a member of the club, at the current cost of £10 per year. All surplus income from the bar or hiring of the facilities is put back into the upkeep or improvements to the building. You will soon see a sign over the building's entrance reflecting the change.

## TOURNAMENT 101 TO FINISH THE SEASON

Following our inaugural inter-club tournament, this years event promises to be better with over 400 club players eligible to be involved.

We will be back at our home in Winscombe for the event on June 15th so keep the date in the diary.

We received plenty of positive feedback form last years event along with people looking to sponsor / help this time round.

So if you would like to either sponsor the event or wish to help / join the tournament committee, please email

[winscombefc@avenirfs.co.uk](mailto:winscombefc@avenirfs.co.uk)



## RACE NIGHT



We are hosting a race night on Saturday 2nd of March.

We are looking for race sponsors (£30), for which you will get your own table and get to choose the names of the horses in your race.

It's always a great night and all money raised will go back in to the club.

If anyone would like to attend or know more, please contact your team manager



# GOAL OF THE MONTH

## DECEMBER

**Jack Andrews**

Scan here to view the goal



POST SHARED ON 31 DECEMBER 2023  
BY WINSCOMBEAFC

## JANUARY

**Darcie Comport**

Scan here to view the goal



POST SHARED ON 29 JANUARY  
BY WINSCOMBEAFC

## SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Winscombe offers all players the opportunity to play football in a safe, friendly, and responsible arena. All our committee and coaches are well versed with our safeguarding practices and procedures, they take any matter raised to our safeguarding team seriously, with all matters always kept confidential.

To contact Emma Cox, our welfare officer please use the QR code and fill out our online form or contact Emma on 07596 596883



## SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship is essential to allow us to maintain our seventeen Junior and three Senior sides and our growing Girls section, and allows us to improve the facilities, coaching and equipment that benefit players of all ages.

We are currently seeking sponsorship for:

- **PITCHSIDE BOARDS**
- **VEO CAMERA/GOAL OF THE MONTH**
- **THIS NEWSLETTER**

All sponsors are/will be also be featured on our brand new website - [www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk](http://www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk), as well as our Twitter and Instagram accounts.

If you are in a position to support, please email [winscombefc@avenirfs.co.uk](mailto:winscombefc@avenirfs.co.uk) for further details.

# AIN'T NO PARTY LIKE A JUNIOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Disco took place on Saturday 2nd December at the club with all teams from U13s down given the chance to get together to throw some shapes to the beats provided by our special 'guest' DJ!

There was a special appearance from the 'Big Man' himself to hand out a Club snood to every player, and a few sore heads the next day!



## MEET THE COMMITTEE

### SEAN HINDES

**HEAD OF GIRLS FOOTBALL & U9 (MIXED) MANAGER**

Sean joined the club in 2021. Like most of (if not all!) the managers in the junior section, he started on the sidelines watching as a parent. An initial offer to help 'herd' a small group of 6 year olds, including his son, very quickly led to him becoming the U7 (now U9s) Manager. His focus has always been on getting a match for everyone who wants to play each week (weather-permitting!) and helping the players grow as footballers and young people through an enjoyment of the game.

At the start 2023, Sean was approached by his daughter, who was playing with the U11 mixed team at the time, about setting up a Girls team. Riding the wave of our Lionesses winning the Euros, he set about seeing if there was any interest in the area...and was blown away. Within a matter of weeks, the club's first ever Girls Team was formed...a proud moment for the club and a fitting way to cap off the club's Centenary season.

Sean was appointed Heads of Girls Football in 2023, and immediately set about starting more girls teams in the younger age groups and is to say that a year on, there are now over 70 girls playing at the club across three teams from minis to U12s. This is due to the effort of numerous existing coaches at the club chipping in and helping to put sessions on and, most importantly, an incredible group of new coaches now managing the teams.

Sean also plays for the club's Vets team, although he'd like to remind his U9s to "do as he says, not as he does!".

Away from the club, Sean is a passionate Liverpool supporter and has followed them across the country and Europe and likes to make the most of living so close to the Thatchers Farm!

# U10S GIRLS BRISTOL ROVERS MASCOT DAY



The U10's Girls squad had an amazing experience being mascots for Bristol Rovers WFC. This was such an incredible day for the girls and it will be something that we remember for a long time.

We took 19 girls over for a top of the table clash against Sherborne Town Ladies. Before the game we got to meet the Gas Girls, getting photos signed and speaking to the players in the changing room. We then had our own football session out on the pitch, playing some small sided games and finishing with a penalty shootout, right next to the Rovers players as they were warming up.

The U10's then lined up in the tunnel ready to walk out with the Bristol Rovers team. You can see in the photos how much they enjoyed this opportunity, and the girls were fantastic throughout the whole day – getting stuck in during their training session, chatting with the players and cheering them on against Sherborne. We definitely picked a good game to watch with Rovers winning 5-1!

This will have been a real inspiration for the Winscombe players and will only increase their enthusiasm for football.

Thank you to Bristol Rovers WFC for putting together the day for us, and to parents for coming along to show their support as well.



# MEET OUR NEW U6 COACH, GARY BOOTH

We are thrilled to welcome our new U6 football coach, Gary Booth, to the club. With a rich history as a (very nearly) former player, Gary brings a wealth of experience to our young footballers. His unparalleled enthusiasm for the sport and commitment to nurturing young talent promises to bring a dynamic and inspiring approach to our budding little football stars!

Let's get to know him a little more...



## **Q. WHAT IS YOUR FOOTBALL BACKGROUND?**

I had an unorthodox football journey. I didn't start the sport until late joining Milton Nomads FC at U10 age group, but I found playing with established footballers difficult and unfortunately stopped after one season.

I didn't return to playing competitive football (outside of playing for my school) until I joined Worle JFC at U15 level. Saturday work commitments made it difficult to commit to the team so in 1997 I joined the team my father, Graham Booth, played for in the Weston Sunday League. This team disbanded at the end of the season!

A year later, I joined a newly formed side, Sporting Weston FC. In 2004 I became the club's Secretary and have continued to play and run it ever since. I have predominantly played in the Weston and District League, but in 2003 I did have a season playing for Langford Rovers in the Premiership Division of the Somerset County League.

Aged 43, this season will be my last playing competitive Saturday football and I look forward to instead concentrating on Winscombe and coaching our U6's.

## **Q. WHAT FOOTBALL TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT?**

My father introduced me to football. He supports Manchester United so it was a natural progression for me to follow suit.

## **Q. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE AS A FOOTBALL COACH AT WINSCOMBE?**

To help build a team of players who gain enjoyment from the sport, improve as footballers and learn some transferable skills that will take them beyond the pitch.

## **Q. WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR PLAYERS TO ACHIEVE AT WINSCOMBE?**

To continue enjoying playing as a team through the age groups and become friends. And have them listen to me and the other coaches, U6's aren't always an easy age group haha!

## **Q. WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AS OUR NEW U6 COACH?**

Seeing the players become a team and continuing to enjoy football as I do so many years on.

## **Q. WHAT DOES FOOTBALL MEAN TO YOU?**

It's my hobby and one of my passions. I have loved playing football so much, it has helped me immensely; physically, mentally and helped me to create some great and long-lasting friendships.

Our U6 team, sponsored by D & S Building & Landscaping Services, are still on the lookout for another dedicated individual to work alongside Gary for the age group. No prior experience or qualifications are needed, just plenty of enthusiasm! If you're interested to know more, please get in touch with Gary at [garybooth\\_50@hotmail.com](mailto:garybooth_50@hotmail.com).

# U7 FOOTBALL HEAVEN!

The under 7's have reached the half-way point in their season and are continuing to grow in size and skill! Matches have come thick and fast for both the Lions and Tigers teams, playing both home and away on Saturday mornings, developing both their footballing ability as well as resilience, braving the elements throughout a chilly and wet November and December.

The Hardy bunch have an arsenal of additional hats, scarves, snoods and gloves to keep them playing in all conditions and their relentlessness to turn up to training and matches has been truly impressive!

Lions and Tigers have faced Portishead, Berrow, Nailsea, Wrington and Cheddar to name just a few teams and are developing their understanding of the diamond formation comprising two midfielders, a defender, attacker and goalkeeper. The squad are beginning to find their favoured positions whilst still regularly rotating to gain and

develop their skills. Training mid-week this season has added to the fun and Churchill astro has seen some great goals scored.

The team have loved playing in their new all blue kit this season with luminescent Goalie jersey, proudly representing the club.

There have been too many individual highlights to mention, however as a team, playing home matches has been great with competitive games Vs Portishead, Wrington and Berrow, as well as a well-earned win against local (friendly) rivals Cheddar at The Rec have been really memorable.

Big thanks to Coaches, Dan, Patrick, Tom and Ian as well as our sponsors Natilik & Excite Energy.

We are always looking for players to join our squad, contact Pete Fowler ([Peterfowler7@hotmail.com](mailto:Peterfowler7@hotmail.com)) if you would like to come along to training.



# U12S - THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

All the U12s players, along with Scott & myself (coaches) would like to say a massive thank you to the three sponsors of our team

**UK REMEDIATION LTD**  
[www.ukremediation.co.uk](http://www.ukremediation.co.uk)

**THE BEAUTY ROOM**  
[www.thebeautyroomwrington.com](http://www.thebeautyroomwrington.com)

**THE VA WORKROOM**  
[www.thevaworkroom.co.uk](http://www.thevaworkroom.co.uk)

Their financial support has enabled us to buy a new kit this season. This would not have been possible without their generous sponsorship and support, thank you!

The VA workroom has provided dry robes for all the team, which have been much appreciated by all (including some parents who have been spotted 'borrowing' them during the recent cold snap!)



## Q&A WITH OUR U12 COACH AND VETS MIDFIELD MAESTRO, MR SCOTT CROSSEY



### WHICH FOOTBALL TEAM DO YOU SUPPORT?

Man Utd

### WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE PLAYER OF ALL-TIME?

Lionel Messi

### THE CURRENT BEST PLAYER IN THE WORLD IS?

Kevin De Bruyne

### BRISTOL CITY OR BRISTOL ROVERS?

City

### FAVOURITE EVER GOAL?

David Beckham free kick v Greece in 2001 World Cup Qualifier

### DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A FOOTBALLER IN 3 WORDS. Cheeky, skilful & frustrating!

### FAVOURITE ITEM TO BUY FROM THE T-HUT?

Tea

## GOALDEN GENERATION GOAL'D AGED PENSIONERS YOU CAN'T GET MUCH VETTER THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER ... 45S



On 21st February, the Somerset FA launched their inaugural Over 45s tournament in Street. The aim being to bridge the gap between Vets football (over 35's ... who can still be pretty decent) and Walking Football. The result is slightly quicker than walking football but with some top-quality players from across the region, playing some impressive stuff.

Winscombe were represented on a blustery pre-Isha afternoon and performed admirably; winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 2 (narrowly).

We may not be as fleet of foot as we once were, but it is a lot of fun and good for mind and body (perhaps not the legs the next day!).

Winscombe also has a Vets team and so if anyone over 35 or 45 is interested in playing, please let Andy Potter know.



# U14'S GIVEN A GOLDEN EGG BY GOOSE TECH!

Local firm Goose Tech has very kindly sponsored the U14's kit, for which the entire team is truly grateful!

A bit more about our sponsors....

## GOOSE TECH LIMITED – PROUD SPONSORS OF WINSCOMBE AFC U14S

Are you tired of dealing with weak WIFI signals in your home?  
Looking to enhance security with CCTV around your house or office?  
Need to relocate your phone to another room?



Look no further...

At Goose Tech LTD, we specialise in a comprehensive range of services, including CCTV and security systems, as well as addressing Internet-related issues such as WIFI and phone line connectivity.

Whether you require the installation of new systems or maintenance for existing ones, we've got you covered.

As a local company based in Sandford, Goose Tech can assist both business and home users with dedication and expertise. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance; we're here to help.

E – [Barrie@goosetech.co.uk](mailto:Barrie@goosetech.co.uk)

P – 07917657823

S – <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091925112855>



## CURRENT ROLES AVAILABLE

- Fund-raising Manager
- U6 Assistant Coach
- Groundsman/Line-Marker

If you would like to volunteer some of your time to help the club, we'd love to hear from you. There is no obligation to join the committee with any of these roles, unless you would like to,

Everyone who runs your team and sits on the Committee is a volunteer, and we are always on the look out for anyone who can give any amount of time they can spare.

There are roles on and off the pitch and no football knowledge or experience is required.

If you can help with any of these roles, or know someone who can, please get in touch:  
[www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk/contact](http://www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk/contact)

## THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MONTH...

**A REMINDER TO CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR ALL TEAM AND CONTACT INFORMATION AND FOLLOW US ON 'X', INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK TO SEE WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE CLUB THROUGHOUT THE WEEK - FIXTURES, GOALS, EVENTS AND MUCH MORE**



[www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk](http://www.winscombefootballclub.co.uk)

@WinscombeAFC

