

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER REVIEW

It was a hectic first-half of the 2023-24 season.

A new home ground for our U7-U12 teams. New training venues, leagues and divisions for our older age groups. New team managers. The never-ending saga of a kit supplier who has let the club down. It's had it all! Now five months in, things have settled and the second-half of the season is ticking along well.

One of the really positive aspects of the season so far has been the development of or younger age groups. The desire to learn to stay on the ball and dominate possession has been great to see. Such a playing style is challenging to master and while results may not always be as hoped for, it encourages our players to be thinkers, intelligent footballers and high-level decision makers. You can find out more about our club values and playing approach <u>here</u>.

We'd also like to thank every parent, carer and volunteer for your ongoing support. Seeing so many of you on the sidelines every weekend, offering nothing but positivity, is brilliant.

U12 - U15 LEAGUE TABLES

U12 Red: HYFL - Div 6 U13 Red: HYFL - Div 1 U13 White: MYFL - Prem Div U14 Red: HYFL - Div 2 U15 Red: HYFL - Prem Div U15 White: MYFL - Prem Div







It's been a mixed first-half of the season for our older age groups, with U12 Red leading the way. Although they sit second in Division 6, they have won 12/12, have scored over 100 goals and have 4 games in hand on the team 3 points above them! Most of our other teams are sitting around mid-table in their respective divisions.

Of course it's great to sit atop of any league but just as important are the little wins throughout the season, such as U13 White's first win of the season in late January. We hope all our teams continue to push on and have a successful next few months.

NEW KIT... AVAILABLE NOW

We are delighted to announce that our new playing kit is now available to purchase via our <u>club shop</u>. We've teamed up with Direct Soccer, who will provide playing and training kit for the remainder of the 2023/24 season and moving forward into 2024/25.

Our aim is to have all players in the new kit for the start of the 2024/25 season. This does not mean you need to purchase the kit now, as we're fully aware many of you purchased kit via our previous supplier. We envisage having somewhat of a mix of kits across some age groups for the remainder of the season. This is fine, as both kits are yellow and black and work well together. However should you want or need to purchase the new kit immediately, please rest assured it can and will be used for next season. **Stock for some sizes is limited at present, however they regularly restock items*

Numbering

Numbers can be added to the rear of the kit for a small additional fee. Some teams require numbers, while others do not. You <u>must speak to your team manager before ordering</u> to confirm if your child requires a number and if so, what number is available to them.

Training Kit (and extras)

A zip-up training top is available as an added extra for those who wish to purchase it. This is an optional item. Additional items of kit will become available over the coming months, with further updates to follow.

We thank you for your patience over recent months, during what has been a frustrating time for all. We're confident our new kit provider will provide a high quality service for all our members.





THE BRENTHAM CLUB

After an abrupt and unforeseen end to our time at Mervyn Rd, we were incredibly fortunate to find a new home for our U7-U12 teams at The Brentham Club. Though slightly further afield from our base in central Ealing, the quality of pitches and facilities at Brentham are a huge step up. The pitches are some of the best in west London, as they should be, being managed by the same company who look after Arsenal's training ground!

In grassroots football it's always a challenge to ensure continuity when it comes to training and match locations. We don't want to lose Brentham, so we're in discussions to ensure our relationship becomes a long-term one. Brentham offer <u>memberships</u> across a range of sports, plus a social membership, for those who may be interested.

Our older age groups continue to play their matches on the 3G pitch at Cardinal Wiseman School, with who we have a strong relationship. It is our intention to remain there for the foreseeable future.

OVERDUE TRAINING FEES

We've been back at training for a number of weeks now, however a number of families are still to pay their training fees. Being a community, not-for-profit club we want to keep fees as low as possible, however if fees aren't paid it will impact on future costs. For our older age groups, who train away from Park Sports, our ability to hire high-quality facilities is also impacted if fees aren't received. We don't ever want to turn people away, so please ensure all outstanding fees are paid ASAP.

U7-U12 Training U13-U15 Training *Discounts are available for low-income families

FA COACHING & REFEREEING COURSES

Interested in developing your football knowledge? There are a number of free online courses on offer to parents, which as a club we strongly recommend. Always useful for those weekends when your child's team needs a little extra support.

EE Playmaker Course

- Free online coaching course (4-5 hours)
- Linked to your England FAN account

Guide to Laws of the Game

- Free online refereeing course (2 hours)
- Linked to your England FAN account

If you or your child (14+) are interested in becoming a referee, they should start by completing the free FA Refereeing online course. Once this is complete, a 2 day course at Middlesex FA (£160, part funded by EUFC) will see you become fully qualified.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! END OF SEASON AWARDS DAY Saturday 18th May, 1-3pm @ The Brentham Club

CLUB AGM Wednesday 29th May 2024 via Teams

Further details for both events will be released shortly.





SUMMER TOURNAMENTS





As we move towards the summer term many clubs across west London host small-sided tournaments which we are invited to take part in. These tournaments are separate from our league and cup fixtures, offering the chance for teams to test themselves against a range of opponents. Your team manager will send out a range of potential tournament options, with it being the decision of the parent group to choose if you wish to take part.

Many tournaments provide participation medals/trophies for the younger age groups, while as you move through to the older age groups there is a the chance to win cup or trophy competitions. We've managed to win a number of tournaments over recent years, as can be seen here.

As tournaments are entered on a team-by-team basis, entry fees are payable directly to your team manager. The one exception is the Brentford FC Gunnersbury Cup, which we enter for all age groups. Enry fees for this tournament are covered by the club.

SATURDAY MORNING TRAINING RETURNS

Saturday morning training sessions will be re-introduced from the start of the summer term. Sessions will be held at Park Sports Lammas Park and be open to players aged 5-10. Led by our team of coaches, we will be encouraging those new to football, particularly in the U7-U8 age groups, to attend. It is also hoped that we have a large number of girls at the sessions, with the intention of starting an EUFC U7/8 girls team for the 2024/25 season. Please do help us spread the word!



PHOTO GALLERY... SEASON 2023/24















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