



Welcome to our Newsletter!

Newsletter Launched

This season we hope to keep everyone in touch with happenings at Lea Sports Pirton FC through the launch of a new on-line newsletter. This newsletter is for everyone in the Club, so if you have any news or views about the Club or its teams, please e-mail me at the address at the bottom of the page. We hope this will be a regular monthly publication which, in conjunction with the Club website, will make everyone feel a part of the Club and its future.

[WEBSITE](#) Note that we hope to appoint a new Webmaster shortly now that Grant Ahlrich's son no longer plays for us. Watch this space!

Peguform take the Premier Computer Supplies Cup

Lea Sports failed in their attempt to win the Premier Cup for the first time since 1995. Ironically, it was a former Lea top scorer, Johnny Temple, who pegged Lea back with an equalizer after Jamie Richards had opened the scoring. Despite Jamie scoring again, two late defensive lapses let Globe win 3-2. This left Peguform & Globe on 6 points but Peguform took the cup as they had beaten Globe 5-2.

Charter Standard on its way....

Our application for Charter Standard status has now been submitted to the Herts FA. This is an exciting development for the Club, hopefully opening the way to substantial extra funding. More on this in future issues.....

Training Tops and Polo Shirts for Sale



Training top as modelled by your editor!

The new training tops are now on sale. We have two sizes: 38/40" and 42/44" available at a subsidized price of just £12 each. E-mail your order to the address at the foot of the page.

We also still have some Lea Sports polo shirts left which are now on offer at the fantastic price of just £5 each. Sizes are medium and large in Navy or Light Gray. First come, first served on these. Place your orders now!!!

Tough Start for the Under Twelves

The fixtures are now out for September and October and the Under 12s have a tough start in their quest for the League Title which just eluded them last season. Their first league fixture on September 10th is away to last season's Champions Icknield Youth. Things don't get easier in October with a difficult County Cup tie against Echoes Youth, conquerors of Phil Cook's Under 12s last year. The Under 15s face a tough trip to Biggleswade in their first game and Knebworth at home in the County Cup.

A full list of fixtures for all four teams is on the Club noticeboard.

Please let me know what you think of the newsletter. If you have any comments or contributions or would like to order training tops or polo shirts, E-mail greatgreensteve@hotmail.co.uk or call 01462 712279

Vol. 1, No. 1, Sept. 2006



Baggy Spotlight

Steve Baggett has started the new season where he left off last year, refereeing three of the Premier Cup games.

He is also involved this season in coaching the Under Fifteens. Keep using that Primrose Oil, Baggy!



Who will wear the Golden Boot?

Previous Winners of the Golden Boot			
01/02	Matt Kenneford	74	U/13
02/03	Matt Kenneford	56	U/14
03/04	Aaron Valentine	40	U/12
04/05	Connor Smith	51	U/11
05/06	Connor Smith	46	U/12

Last year's Winner of the Golden Boot (Club top scorer) has moved on to bigger and better things at Stevenage Borough, so the race is on for this year's winner.

Jamie Richards and Phil Thompson from the First Team will have their eyes on the coveted shield (or could it be new goalscoring sensation Greg Whelan??), whilst from the Reserves Lewis Smith got off to a flying start with a hat-trick in his first match.

Traditionally, the winner has come from the Youth section and Sam Tomkins from the Under 15s and Danny Butler from the Under 12s will both fancy their chances.

Greg Whelan takes on the Chairman's job.

For those of you who couldn't make it to the AGM (!) here is news of this year's Executive Committee:-

Keith Lee stood down after five years as Chairman and Greg Whelan was elected to take over. Ben Alderton takes over from Paul Gatheron as Secretary to the North Home Counties League.

Vets back on the scene..

The Veterans make an appearance on 10th September vs.Pirton Casuals. There is no truth in the rumour that the Lister Hospital has been placed on emergency stand-by.

Clubhouse Project

The first meeting will take place in September of the Committee whose job is to build a new Clubhouse at the Recreation Ground. Lots of work needs to be done in designing the building, raising finance and seeing the project through, but these are exciting times.

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Executive Committee Contact Details

President, Club Secretary & Hon.Treasurer:

Stephen Smith, The Old Post Office, 6 Great Green, Pirton, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3QD
Tel:01462 712279

Chairman:

Greg Whelan, 3 Summers Road, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 9HS
Tel:07887 752995

Vice Chairman:

Archie Conway
01582 615653

Secretary (NHCSFL):

Ben Alderton, 81 Birchen Grove, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 7TL
Tel:01582 518571

Secretary (CYFL):

Graham Manton, 11 Wren Close, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 8EY
Tel:01582 619669

Social Secretaries

Richard Randall & Graham Manton
01462 713211 01582 619669

1st XI Manager:

Richard Randall

2nd XI Manager:

Ed Thomson
01462 450633

Under 15s Manager:

Mark Hill
01582 526382

Under 12s Managers:

Greg Nunn & Andy Good
01462 815797 01462 817220

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Lea Sports Pirton—A Charter Standard Club

Charter Standard Status Granted to Lea Sports

Vol. 1, No. 2, Oct. 2006

All of the hard work which has gone into our application for Charter Standard status was rewarded this month when the application was approved by the FA. In addition to a plaque and a letter of congratulation signed by Trevor Brooking, the Club received three match balls in recognition of its achievement. This award should now pave the way for future funding in support of the project to build a new Clubhouse at the Recreation Ground. The Club Committee, at its Executive Meeting in September, recognized the contribution made by Graham Manton in coordinating and submitting the application.



Vets Back in Action

The Vets played their first game in 2 years and only their second since 1999 when they took on Pirton Casuals.



The old'uns found the going tough as the casuals ran out 5-2 winners. Phil Thompson notched both of our consolation goals. Manager Steve Baggett hopes to arrange more Vets fixtures through the season.

Five Years Ago

October 2001 was a miserable month for the Reserves. Three games brought three defeats: we tumbled out of the Reserve Cup to FC Houghton 0-2 at the first hurdle and this was followed by a 3-7 reverse at home to Leagrave Wanderers (scorers: Shiers, Palmer and Ed Thomson). A 3-4 defeat to Pulsebeat (Richards(2), Gathern) left the team with just 4 points from 6 games.

October Fixtures

October sees the annual adventures of the County Cups, while the Under 15s have four home league games: :

	LEA SPORTS PIRTON FIXTURES 2006			
	NORTH HOME COUNTIES SUNDAY LEAGUE		CHILTERN YOUTH LEAGUE	
	First XI	Second XI	Under 15	Under 12
OCTOBER				
1st	Markyate		Markyate Youth	Echoes Youth Amber (County Cup 2nd)
8th	Icarus (Herts.Inter.Cup 1)	Caddington	Leighton Town Youth	
15th	Club Lewsey	Radlett A/Broxbourne Ath. (Herts.Junior)	AFC Kempston Colts A	Bedford Town Youth
22nd				
29th			St. Josephs Youth	(County Cup 3rd Round prov.)

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September Action



LEWIS SMITH

There have been mixed fortunes for the Club in September. The First XI started with a decent away draw with Silsoe Park Rangers, but followed this with defeat after extra time to Houghton Town in the A&B Senior Trophy and then a 2-0 defeat away to lowly Lilley Rangers. The Reserves are off to a flying start with wins of 5-1, 5-0 and 8-0. They only scored 29 goals last season (the lowest-ever total in a full season), but this year Lewis Smith alone has scored 10 times in the first 4 games.

The Under 15s lost narrowly away to Biggleswade Town 2-1 in the league, but crashed out of the County Cup 8-2 at Knebworth. The Under 12s have already lost more league games than in the whole of last season! Defeats at Icknield (0-1) and Dunstable (0-3) were followed by a 1-1 draw at home to Bedford Valerio Utd.

Reserves off to a Storming Start

The Reserves have got off to a flying start this season. They followed up wins in their first two league games (5-1 and 5-0) with an overwhelming 8-0 thrashing of Nags Head in the Challenge Cup. Their toughest task was a Reserve Cup tie against First Division AC Sportsman Res. The game looked to be heading for extra time, but a fantastic late strike by Lewis Smith saw the team claim a famous 1-0 win.

Christmas Raffle (Yes, it's that time of year already)

Once again the Club will be selling Chiltern Youth League Xmas Raffle tickets this year. This is a good earner for the Club as well as the League, so please support our efforts and buy a book of tickets.

Junior Cup run begins

Thirty years ago this month the First Team began the run that was to take them to the Final of the Beds.Lower Junior Cup by beating RDL 3-0 with 2 goals from Alvin Goodwin and one from Phil Holmes.

Clubhouse Facilities

Plans are under way to redecorate the Clubhouse. New kitchen equipment is due to be installed shortly and (I promise) improvements will be made to the showers. I have now taken over as Chairman of the Sports & Social Club and I hope to encourage more people to use the facility for social as well as sporting events.

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Archie makes his debut

Second Team Captain Archie Conway made his debut for the Club 25 years ago this month on 11th October 1981 in a Third XI fixture vs. Luton Teachers' Club. Not only that but he scored! This was the first of 557 appearances and 48 goals for the Club.

Premier League Competition

The Premier League Competition this year has 85 entries—just one more than last year. Many thanks to Paul Gathern, Archie Conway and Greg Nunn for pulling in most entries, The prizes this year will be £50, £25, £10 and £5. A full list of entries can be seen on the club noticeboard and regular updates will be published in future newsletters.





County Cup Focus

Under 15s Out. Under 12s, Firsts & Seconds Through

Vol. 1, No. 3, Nov. 2006

With the Under 15s crashing out of the County Cup after a 2-8 defeat at Knebworth Jaguars, it fell to the Under 12s to keep the Youth hopes alive with a home tie vs. Echoes Youth Ambers from Hemel Hempstead. Under threatening skies the team started off at a fierce pace, forcing good saves from the Echoes keeper early on. After just 4 minutes the pressure told with Matty Baxter heading in a good right wing cross to make it 1-0. Echoes fought hard to get back in the game, but were being caught out by crosses from both wings. After 15 minutes, Jack Mordecai was on the end of a cross from the left to force the ball home and make it 2-0. Three minutes later the tie was all over as Danny Butler just beat the offside trap to fire home from 8 yards. Bradley Turner added a fourth before half-time, heading in a corner from the right. Jack Stanton saw his 20-yard chip hit the bar as the Echoes keeper was kept busy. The second half was much the same story, with three early corners maintaining the Lea Sports pressure. The Echoes keeper continued to make some fine saves but could do nothing to prevent Danny Butler sliding in the fifth goal after a good run and cross from the left by Harry Mabbitt. Adam Nunn fired the sixth in off a post and Danny Butler struck the underside of the bar as Lea eased into the next round and a tie vs. Baldock Town.

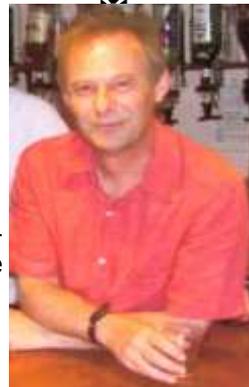


The First XI took an early lead against Hemel side Icarus through Greg Whelan and never looked back. A penalty from Scott Morgan made it two, and further goals from Whelan and Jamie Richards (2) saw the team safely through to a second round tie at home to AFC Rangers. The Reserves too scored early in their match vs. Broxbourne Athletic. Against a poor side the Reserves piled on the goals and were 5-2 up at half-time. More followed in the second half and the game finished with the unlikely score of 8-4 to Lea Sports.

Veteran vets.....

Paul Gatheren played in the recent Vets match in Pirton, but he also played in the first Vets fixture on 9th April 1991, when he scored vs. Stopsley Community Centre in a 7-4 win. Phil Thompson had to wait until 13th

March 1994 to score his first Vets goal (a hat-trick in a 4-6 defeat vs. Oaklands College).



Paul Gatheren

We are the Champions!



As well as having a National Champion in Tae Kwan-Do in Bobby McGrath, we now have a Bedfordshire County Athletics Champion in Aaron Bodger from the Under 12s.

Aaron competed in the Eastern Athletic Association, Combined Events Championship, held in Peterborough in September. He took part in the Under 13 Minithon event (one jump, one throw and one track event). Aaron achieved 19.59m in the discus, 1.30m in the high jump and 2 mins 36.4 seconds in the 800 metres. His combined score of 65 points was enough to see him crowned Bedfordshire County Champion and equal first in the Eastern Athletic Association Championship. For more info and pictures go to:

<http://www.peterborough-ac.org.uk/news59.htm>



Ten Years Ago

In November 1996, the First XI, under Manager Laurence Freed, were in Division 1 of the North Home Counties. A good start to the season saw them travel to Langleybury in the Herts County Cup with high hopes. Things looked even better when Ashley Burgess scored after a couple of minutes. Unfortunately keeper Pete Mather had one of his 'blonde' days and the team crashed out 4-1—Pete threw his boots away after the match! The 2 league games brought a 2-1 win vs.St.Josephs Res. (Campbell, Temple) and a 0-4 defeat at home to Celtic SC Reserves.

Dave Lindley's Reserves played 4 league games in Division 4, but only won 1 (5-2 vs.Wyvern Res.). Mark Freire, who recently played against the Reserves for Sportsman, was one of the scorers that day. The defeats were vs.Flint (1-3), Markyate (0-5) and Houghton Town Res.(2-3).

The Thirds under Mick Marsh were on their way to a runners-up spot in the Luton Sunday League. Phil Clarke scored 6 and Al Palmer 3 as they beat GML Comets 12-3, but the other results were 1-1 vs.Newt & Cucumber and 0-2 vs.Woodlands Social. In the CBS cup Al Palmer (right) scored the winning goal in a 1-0 win vs.Dunstable Drivers, as the 3rds headed towards their victory in the final in May 97.



Football Foundation
football's biggest supporter

New Goals On Show

A new set of portable aluminium junior-size goals is now in use at Pirton.

The goals come with a kit which enables them to be converted to full-size goals when needed. Grants were obtained from the Football Foundation and Pirton Sports & Social Club towards the overall cost.

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Bonfire Night

Pirton Sports and Social Club will one again be running a Fireworks Display at Pirton Recreation Ground on Saturday 4th November. We would welcome any volunteers to help on the night—potential jobs include stewarding gates and car-park, helping with the barbecue or behind the bar, etc. If you think you can lend a hand please drop me an e-mail or phone on the number below. Thanks—hope to see you all on the night.



New Website Launch

www.leasportspirton.com

[Contacts](#)
[Fixtures](#)
[Photo Gallery](#)
[History](#)
[Tour Matches](#)
[Cup Finals](#)
[Magazines](#)
[Special Occasions](#)
[Premier Lge.Comp.](#)

Sponsored by



Hardware/Software
 Consumables
 Printing Services

[Premier Website](#)

A new web site is now available for Lea Sports Pirton FC with much more of the Club's history available online.

The site contains directions and links to the Pirton Village website, the Chiltern Youth League site and our sponsor, Premier Computer Supplies.

The Photo Gallery holds over 100 photos from the last 25 years (although more would be very welcome, if any of you out there have any you could make available).

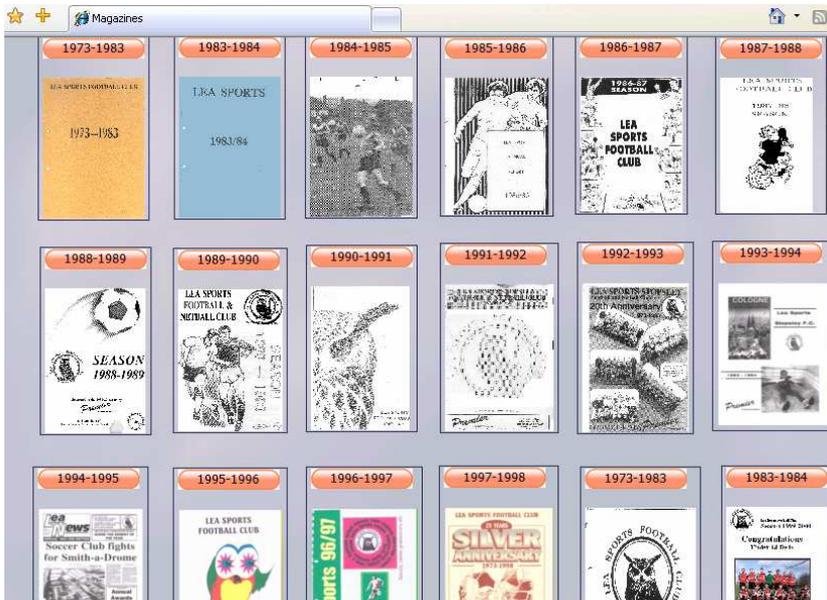
The History section holds detailed teamsheets and league tables for every team for every season since 1973, plus players' appearances and goals for each season. There is also a spreadsheet showing every player who has worn a Lea Sports shirt, showing appearances and goals for each season. Even the ladies team, the netball team and the five-a-side teams are recorded.

In the Tour Matches section there are photos of our foreign trips which are sure to bring back memories for all those who ventured onto foreign soil with Lea Sports.

The Cup Finals section has a page for each of the *seventeen* Cup Finals Lea Sports has taken part in.

The Magazines section allows you to view any of the Annual Club Magazines produced since 1983. Take a look at the comments from Rick Vipers or Mick Marsh from the mid-eighties, or view the mammoth 90-page magazine produced for the Club's 20th Anniversary in 1993. Many of the mags have had extra pages added, with photos or league tables or other interesting bits of documentation picked up over the years.

The Special Occasions section records some of the more memorable events along the way—I won't spoil the surprise here...



Last but not least, up-to-date results from this year's Premier League Competition will be on display.

Hope you like what you see—as always any comments or constructive criticism are most welcome!



County Cup Progress for the Firsts

The First XI battled through a tough Herts Intermediate Second Round cup tie vs. AFC Rangers from Watford. We were surprised early in the game by the visitors' aggression and fell behind when a cross from the right caused confusion between defender and goalkeeper. A fine pass from Jamie Richards put 'Titch' Bevan through



The First Team celebrate their Cup victory vs.AFC Rangers

to side-foot past the advancing goal-keeper and level the tie. Some fine attacking football followed from Lea Sports and a cross from the left wing by Mark Booth was met by the head of Phil Thompson to put Lea ahead.

Before half-time Titch Bevan slotted a fine shot into the far corner to give the home side a 3-1 lead, which they preserved through a tough second half, despite some strong-arm tactics from Rangers which saw one of their players dismissed and at least 2 others lucky to stay on. Having won all 6 of their Olympian League games, Rangers tasted defeat for the first time, while Lea Sports went through to a home tie with AC Finchley Select.

New Year's Eve

If you're stuck for a Baby-Sitter on New Year's Eve, why not bring the kids along to the disco in the Clubhouse in Pirton. Get those Hawaiian shirts on....

New Years Eve Beach Party



Free entry
7:30 pm till late
Pirton Sports and Social Club
Families welcome

Club Refurb

Work is underway to refurbish the Clubhouse at Pirton. The project to build a new pavilion is taking shape, but it could be four or five years before the scheme comes to fruition, so in the meantime the existing club is being given a lick of paint and new kitchen equipment.

Please let me know what you think of the newsletter. If you have any comments or contributions or would like to order training tops or polo shirts, E-mail greatgreensteve@hotmail.co.uk or call 01462 712279



November Action



LEWIS SMITH

The Reserves bounced back to winning ways in November, after a disastrous October which saw them concede 17 goals and crash out of the Challenge Cup. On November Fifth it was Lewis Smith who once more provided the fireworks with a hat-trick away to Magnum ABC Reserves in a 4-1 win.

Success followed in the County Junior Cup when Lewis recorded another hat-trick as Tewin Athletic were swept away 4-0. The next round in December throws up a tricky away tie to AC Enfield who play in Flamstead End on the outskirts of Cheshunt. If they can win that game, it's home ties all the way to the Semi-Finals.

Money Matters—Pitch Fees Renegotiated

After lengthy discussions with the Sports & Social Club we have managed to renegotiate annual pitch fees down to a sensible level in line with Cricket Club payments.

We have also received a grant from the Football Foundation towards the cost of the new junior goals, plus a payment from the Sports & Social Club towards this cost, so the Club's finances are in a healthy condition. There are still one or two players who have not paid their Annual Subscription (£10 adults, £5 juniors). Don't jeopardize your chances of playing by not paying!

Lads on Tour

Club Chairman Greg Whelan is proposing to arrange an end-of-season tour for the adults this year. His proposal is a trip somewhere in this country, so if you're interested, or have any suggestions for venues, let him know. (There's no truth in the rumour that if he went abroad he'd be pursued by Interpol).

Under Twelves make it a profitable Fireworks Night

Members of the Under 12 squad turned up at the Pirton Fireworks Display with a guy and collected donations towards Club funds. Between them they made over £40, so well done lads. They followed this up by thrashing Celtic Youth the next morning 5-0, so a good weekend all round.

Vets Frustrated!

Steve Baggett was hoping to organise further Veterans matches, but has been frustrated by the lack of availability of pitches at Pirton. The second 'adult' pitch is in almost constant use by our Under 12s and Stevenage Borough Under 13s, who are making a valuable contribution to Club funds. Not only that, but AVC Communications, who are Stevenage's main sponsors, have pledged £5,000 towards the project for a new pavilion.

PHOTOS WANTED...if you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Website

Don't forget the website contains up-to-date fixtures and League Tables for all of our teams: click on <http://www.leasportspirton.com>

And There's More...

Following the successful launch of the new Club website last month, additional information has been added. These Newsletters are also now available on the site, as is a copy of the Club Constitution, and the policies for Equal Opportunities and Codes of Conduct. There are also links to surrounding County Associations and many adjacent Sunday Leagues. If there's anything else you think is needed, please let me know.



November Action

First Team— The First Team began the month with a tough home draw in the Hertfordshire Intermediate Cup second round at home to AFC Rangers. A 3-1 win saw them through to a third round tie at home to AFC Finchley Select 'A' on 3rd December (see report on page 1).

After a free week, the Firsts carried their good form into their next league fixture—a home game against Houghton Town Reserves. Houghton had already dumped us out of the A&B Senior Trophy, winning 4-1 after extra time in September, but there was no upset this time. Jamie Richards grabbed a hat-trick and Richard Randall scored two rare goals to add to a Titch Bevan strike and an own goal in a 7-2 rout. The final game of November was a frustrating 1-1 home draw with Macom Eagles,

Second Team— In contrast to the First Team, who had three home games in the month, the Reserves found themselves on the road for three of their four matches in November. This proved no impediment to their progress, however, as they returned to their early season form with a 4-1 win away to Magnum ABC Reserves, including another hat-trick for Lewis Smith.

The County Cup adventure continued with a 4-0 thrashing of an average Tewin Athletic side—guess who scored another hat-trick in this one... The Fourth Round on 10th December will prove a more difficult proposition with a trip to the Cheshunt area to play AC Enfield, who beat Hemel side AC Grapes 3-2 away in Round 3. If they can play to their potential, the Reserves should fear no-one in this competition and it would be great to maintain the County Cup interest into the New Year.

The second away fixture of the month was against bogey team Hillymede Horners, whom we had not previously beaten. On another glorious sunny day at Barnfield College the Reserves bossed the game and it was no surprise when Lewis Smith gave us a 1-0 half-time lead. In the second half we continued to dominate and a scrambled effort following a corner gave us all 3 points. Lewis Smith was unavailable for the last match of the month and the team lost their second league game going down 3-4 to Leagrave Wanderers at Lea Manor.

Under Fifteens— Despite some good performances the Under Fifteens are not collecting points. After a 6-1 defeat to Amptill Town in a tough away fixture, the team played really well in the home game vs. league leaders Bedford Park Rangers. A bizarre refereeing decision gifted Bedford the first goal—the referee awarded an indirect free-kick in our box for some mysterious infringement and Bedford took full advantage. The ref later stated that the free-kick was for a foul—*shouldn't that have been a penalty then ref?* Bedford snatched a second goal—and all 3 points—in the second half. On November 19th the team were 3-1 up at half time in the away game vs. Barnfield Colts at Rotheram, but couldn't hold on and a last-minute strike gave Barnfield a heartbreaking 5-4 win. The League Cup brought no respite with the lads going down 3-0 to Langford Youth at Pirton on November 26th. Manager Mark Hill is still struggling for players and has now been reduced to a squad of just eleven players—if anyone knows any players who are looking for a game at Under 15 please contact Mark or myself.

Under Twelves— Playing for the first time on the larger home pitch, the Under Twelves found their feet straight away with a 5-0 thrashing of Celtic Youth.

The away form in the league is still proving a problem, however, and November 12th brought a 1-1 draw away to Warden Hill Tigers. Back in Pirton on November 19th the team produced one of their best league performances, condemning Barnfield Colts to their first league defeat of the season in an emphatic 4-0 victory. The good form continued into the final league game of the month, with Celtic Youth being on the wrong end of another 4-0 victory.



County Cup Focus

Firsts and Reserves Crash Out. Under Twelves Through to 5th Round

The First Team reserved one of their worst performances of the season for their third round Herts. Intermediate Cup tie against AC Finchley Select A. On a windy December morning, after a night of heavy rain, the Firsts failed to get going against an average team from the Barnet Sunday League. Despite looking the better side in all positions Lea couldn't create any clear chances and found themselves a goal down at the interval following a defensive mistake by Jamie Ayres. The second half was no better with Jamie Richards scoring a late consolation goal in a disappointing 3-1 defeat.



On the same day, the Under 12s were also at home to Barnet-based opposition in Hadley Wood. At full-time the scores were locked at 0-0, but 2 goals in the second period of extra time from Jack Mordecai and Danny Butler saw the lads through to a 5th round tie away to Welwyn Pegasus Royals on 21st January.

The Reserves' fixture away to AC Enfield was postponed on December 10th because of a waterlogged pitch and it hadn't improved much when the tie was played on the 17th. The pantomime season started early as the back four repeatedly shouted 'He's behind you' as the Enfield forwards persistently breached a flat-footed defence. Down 2-0 at half-time to a soft goal and a superb direct free-kick, the wheels really came off in the second half and Enfield afforded themselves the luxury of missing a penalty as they ran out 6-0 winners. The Reserves looked completely out of sorts in the mud and went down to their heaviest defeat since the 7-0 home drubbing by Brache Green Man in the Challenge Cup in September 2004.

QUIZ NIGHT

The football club, in collaboration with Pirton Sports & Social Club, are holding a Quiz Night on Friday January 26th at the clubhouse in Pirton.

Entry fees are £5 per person—teams of up to 4 people. Get your teams together and come and support the Club.

Remember: *if it's the Last Friday of the Month, there's going to be something on at the Rec.*

Vandalism at the Recreation Ground

In early December a car was driven onto the playing area and the surface was considerably cut up. At the same time two of the newly-erected posts along the car park were pulled



out of the ground. Around the same time part of the pitch marker was stolen and had to be replaced at a cost of £55. If you see any suspicious vehicles at the Rec, please take a note of the registration number and let me know. Also, if you see anyone causing damage to the ground or fittings, please let me know and the Police will be informed. Help us stamp this behaviour out.



Check Out the 200 Club on the Website

The Club website at www.leasportspirton.com now has pen pictures and photos of all the members of The Two Hundred Club—the exclusive club for those who have made over 200 recorded appearances for Lea Sports.

Have a look at the site: it will bring back some memories for a lot of the oldies!

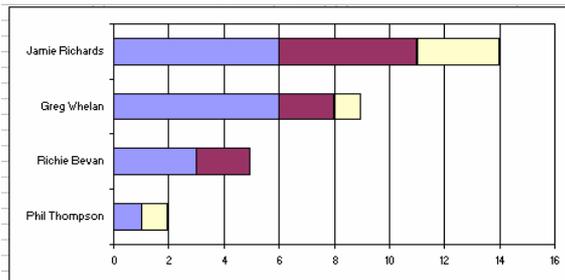


• Kelvin Callow celebrates 500 appearances in 1993 •

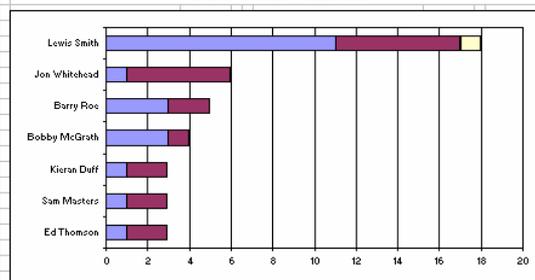
Golden Boot Race heats up!

Top goalscorers to the end of December 2006. Lewis Smith is now second-top scorer in the North Home Counties League and leads the way in the Golden Boot chase with 18—Jamie Richards is not far behind, however, on 14 and Adam Nunn has hit form for the Under 12s and now has 11 in total. Greg Whelan's brace against Postels puts him on 9.

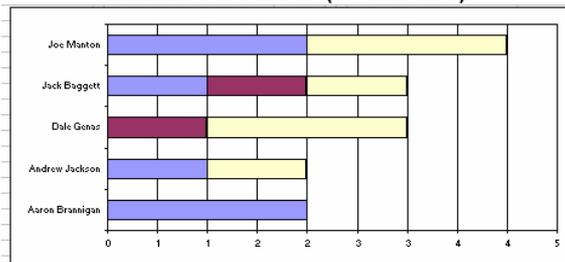
FIRST TEAM



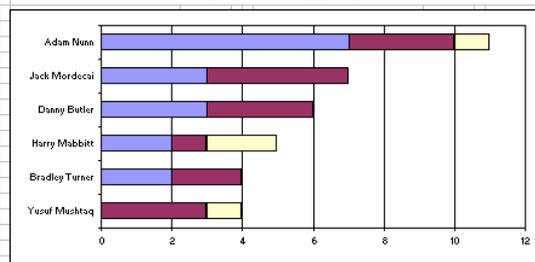
SECOND TEAM



UNDER FIFTEENS (to 15.10.06)



UNDER TWELVES



LEAGUE GOALS: [Blue]

CUP GOALS: [Maroon]

FRIENDLY GOALS: [Yellow]

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

New Year's Eve

Don't forget that on New Year's Eve there is a Beach Party at Pirton Sports and Social Club. Entry is free and there will be a disco until the early hours, with food available. Get your shorts on, slap on the fake sun-tan and get down to the Rec!

Please let me know what you think of the newsletter. If you have any comments or contributions or would like to order training tops or polo shirts, E-mail secretary@leasportspirton.com or call 01462 712279.

Steve Smith



Just the Reserve & U12 League Cups Left to Play For

County Cup Agony for Under Twelves

On a blowy Sunday on 21st January, the Under Twelves made the trip to Welwyn Garden City to face Welwyn Pegasus Royals. Leading 2-1 at half-time, things got even better when we scored a third in the second half. The last fifteen minutes were agony, however, as Welwyn fought back and scored three goals to take the tie 4-3.

In fact, January 21st was one of those 3-1 days!

Apart from the Under 12s surrendering a 3-1 lead, the Reserves lost 3-1 to 61FC Reserves, the Under 15s lost 3-1 to AFC Kempston, but the first team recorded a great 3-1 win over Club Lewsey Reserves, who had not dropped a point prior to the game. Titch Bevan, Jamie Richards and Richard Knock were on target for the Firsts, who have lost only once in the league since their defeat away to Lewsey in October.

Fixtures on Your Mobile...

If you have Internet access on your mobile phone, the fixtures for each team are available in an easy-to-read format. Go to one of the following four sites to see the fixtures for your team:

www.leasportspirton.com/FIRST.htm

www.leasportspirton.com/SECOND.htm

www.leasportspirton.com/UNDER15.htm

www.leasportspirton.com/UNDER12.htm

Vol. 1, No. 6, Feb. 2007



Social Events

Please note that the Quiz planned for January 26th has been postponed until April. The Sports & Social Club committee is still determined to arrange a series of events, but after a disappointing New Year's Eve, felt that they needed more time to arrange and advertise proposed events. Watch this space...

A Tale of Two 3-3 draws—well, almost...

On 17th December, the First team were away to Postels in Division 2. Postels had only lost one game all season, but found Lea Sports a handful and were always behind in the match. With the score at 3-2 to Lea Sports, Titch Bevan broke through the Postels defence again and saw his shot saved with his hands by a defender on the line. Richard Knock followed up and put the ball in the net and the referee duly awarded the goal. However, in the face of violent protests from the Postels players the referee agreed to go and talk to the linesman and then changed his mind and disallowed the goal for offside. Postels equalised a couple of minutes later and the game finished 3-3.

Meanwhile, on 7th January the Reserves were at home to Nags Head in Division 4. Lea got off to a good start and stormed into a 2-0 lead, with goals from Luke Day and Lewis Smith, before Nags Head pulled one back. Lewis Smith then pounced again to score with a superb solo effort before going off injured just before half time. The second half saw increased Nags Head pressure, which brought them a second goal with about ten minutes to go. Luke Day then netted for Lea Sports only for the goal to be chalked off by another dubious offside decision. It looked like the same story again when the Nags Head centre-forward scored in the final minute, but he too was denied by the offside flag to leave the Reserves with an important 3-2 victory in the search for league honours.



Clubhouse Facilities

The Club renovation is going well. New carpet tiles are now in place and the kitchen equipment has been installed. To complete this project, new blinds will be put up at the windows and the main entrance will be enhanced with better access, lighting and signage. Any comments/suggestions for further improvements are welcome.

New Year Travels

The fixtures in January and February have not been too kind to the two youth sides. The only home game they have between them in those two months is the Under 12s match vs. Warden Hill Tigers in Pirton on 25th February 2007.

100% record goes

The Reserves let slip their 100% home record in the league in their match vs 61FC Reserves on 28th January. Despite taking a 2-0 first half lead with goals from Lewis Smith and Barry Roe, the team conceded a goal either side of half time to finish at 2-2. Meanwhile the First Team were winning 1-0 at Houghton Town with a goal from Richard Knock. The Under 12s began their defence of the League Cup with a 15-0 romp away to Ampthill Town A. Meanwhile, the Under 15s gained a point in a 4-4 draw away to Flitwick Eagles.

End of Season Awards Evening

At present, the plan is to have a combined Awards Evening for all four of the Club's teams at Luton Rugby Club on Friday 15th June 2007.

This is a popular venue, used a number of times in the past by the Club. The comfortable bar overlooks the pitch, so bored youngsters can play outside while adults concentrate on the serious matters inside!

Full details will follow in due course, but book the date.



The Williams family collecting awards at the Annual Awards Evening in 2004

Extra Photos on Show

Thanks to Steve Williams for providing photos of the 2004 Annual Awards Night held in Pirton. The photos are on display on the website at www.leasportspirton.com on the Photo Gallery page. There is also now a page on the website describing all the Championships won by the Club—click on the 'Championships' button on the home page.

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Premier League Competition

The Premier League Competition is very close with Chris Hawkes in the lead on 52 points, followed on 56 by Steve Smith, Mike Wallace, Ed Thomson and Greg Nunn. Lewis Smith, Chris Gathern and Ian Travis are just 2 points further away on 58 points.



I for one will be hoping that Wigan and West Ham pick up some points, while Reading and Blackburn sink down the table.

The latest positions are on the website at www.leasportspirton.com.

Please let me know what you think of the newsletter. If you have any comments or contributions or would like to order training tops or polo shirts, E-mail secretary@leasportspirton.com or call 01462 712279



Adults' Cup Dreams Disappear for Another Year

Reserves put up a Brave Fight vs. Moat Reserves

The Reserves' great win over AC Sportsman Reserves earned them a Quarter-Final pairing with Moat Reserves in Pirton on 4th February 2007. Another First Division side came to Pirton expecting an easy morning's work against the side from Division 4. However, the Reserves started well and battled through to half-time with a 0-0 scoreline.

As the game went on it looked increasingly likely that one goal would settle matters: Lewis Smith was desperately unlucky to see the Moat keeper make a great save to block his close-range effort.

In the end the deciding goal came from a direct free-kick, which soared into the top corner from 25 yards giving Gav Bidgood no chance. It was a brave performance from the Reserves and one to be proud of.

Vol. 1, No. 7, Mar. 2007

PIRTON EVENTS

The football club, in collaboration with Pirton Sports & Social Club, are hosting live music at the Rec on Friday, March 30th. See Steve Smith or your team manager about tickets. Come and have a great night listening to some excellent local talent. And there's a free chilli supper too!

Pirton Sports and Social Club



Rock at the Rec
 Friday, March 30th
 Live Music from local band
 Sharp's Hooter
 Tickets £3
 Doors open 8.30
 Band on stage at 9.00

Tickets available from: Steve Smith, 6 Great Green 712279 Sarah Stoney, 4c Royal Oak Lane 712477
 Recreation Ground, Walnut Tree Road, Pirton The Village Shop or at the door on the night www.pirtonssc.co.uk

If it's the last Friday of the Month, there must be something on at the Rec....

Firsts March on—Reserves stumble

The First Team have hit a streak of good form since Christmas. They were leading 2-1 at Crawley Green Reserves on 4th February, with goals from Michael Hughes and Mark Booth, until an unfortunate own goal in the 92nd minute by Scott Morgan gave Crawley a share of the points. They followed this up on 18th February with a 7-1 thrashing of hapless Markyate at Pirton—Phil Thompson scored four goals despite receiving a gash on his eye-brow.

After their defeat at the hands of Moat, the Reserves made the trek to Dunstable to take on Nags Head. Unfortunately, no referee turned up and Nags Head were unable to provide a replacement, so the game did not go ahead. The following week the Reserves proved again that they can't defend on heavy pitches. At home to Caddington, they hit the post and bar in the first half but turned round goal-less. Two early mistakes gifted Caddington goals in the second half and despite 2 strikes from Lewis Smith the Reserves surrendered their unbeaten home league record in a 2-4 defeat.

The Under 12s rounded off February with a fine 6-1 win over Warden Hill at Pirton.



Snow Hits Fixtures

All of our fixtures on February 11th were hit by the heavy snowfall. This was the scene at Pirton Recreation Ground on Thursday 8th February after the snow hit the village.



End of Season Awards Evening

We have been trying to book Luton Rugby Club for the Annual Awards Evening, but have been put off by the high cost of hiring the hall and food. The Rugby Club only allow their own caterers and the cheapest buffet they offer is £12 per head. When added to the price of hiring the hall and a disco the cost was working out at about £15 per head. In view of this, we may now decide to hold the event elsewhere. As soon as we have a firm venue we'll let you know.

Chairman submits to a day of torture at Vicarage Road...



The Hertfordshire FA (bless 'em) decided to hold a presentation for all clubs recently achieving Charter Standard status at Watford's home game against Bolton on February 3rd. I'm glad to say I stuck to my principles as a die-hard Luton Town fan and refused the invitation, so the Club was represented by Chairman Greg Whelan and first-teamers Simon Jackson and Jamie Richards. Needless to say, they saw one of the worst games of football ever as Bolton ran out 1-0 winners.

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Quiz Night coming Soon

April will see a Quiz Night being held at the Clubhouse. The plan is to offer a Fish and Chip Supper as well as some entertaining questions. Entry is £5 per person (including supper) (Teams of 6 people). Get your thinking caps on and see Steve Smith or your team manager to reserve your place.



Under 12s On Target to Retain League Cup

Smash and Grab in Flitwick

The Under Twelves put in another convincing performance in their Third Round League cup tie away to Flitwick Eagles 'A' on 11th March. Playing at Flitwick Leisure Centre the Under Twelves ran in seven goals without reply. Top scorer Adam Nunn got a couple and there were other goals from Danny Butler (3), Brett Longden and Jack Mor-decai.

Meanwhile, a mile or so down the road at The Avenue in Flitwick, the Reserves also grabbed a seven-goal haul against bottom of the table Wells Stars. It was hard going on a small pitch in the first half with just a 45th minute strike from Luke Day separating the teams. Lewis Smith added a second after 5 minutes of the second half and after that the floodgates opened. Further goals came from Ed Thomson, Ben Thomson, Sam Masters and 2 from Jon Whitehead, including a penalty.

Vol. 1, No. 8, Apr. 2007

RED FACE FOR THE REF

Steve Baggett, our well-known and loved referee, got a taste of his own medicine when he played in goal for the Reserves vs. Wells Stars. After bringing down the opposition forward in the first half Baggie was given a yellow card by the ref. Some say he should have walked.....

BRIGHTON TRIP PLANNED FOR MAY 19th



The proposed trip to Brighton for the adult teams has now been finalised for Cup Final weekend—May 19th. The plan is to travel down by train on Saturday morning—watch the Cup Final in the afternoon and then partake of the delights of an English seaside resort in the evening before

returning on the Sunday morning. For more details, or to register your interest, contact Chairman Greg Whelan (chairman@leasportspirton.com).

Charter Standard Status Confirmed

The Club has finally received confirmation of the Charter Standard status for the Youth section (Adult status was received months ago). The Club's intention is now to push on for Development Club status—this will enable the Club to apply for more funding in support of the project to build a new pavilion in Pirton.

Club Membership

The Committee has decided to recommend a reduction in adult Membership fees for next season from £10 to £5, to bring them in line with Youth players.

Adult members of Lea Sports Pirton are also automatically members of Pirton Sports & Social Club. This means that they are eligible for reduced rates for hiring the Clubhouse, for birthdays, christenings, barmitzvahs, etc!. They are also entitled to a reduction in the ticket price for the regular monthly events that the PSSC will be running. (*If it's the last Friday of the month, there must be something on at the Rec...*). From this Spring, Members will also be able to book sessions on the Tennis Courts, again at reduced rates. The prices for non-members are £15 per hour, but Members pay only £10, so it's certainly worth joining either the Football Club, or PSSC directly (PSSC Membership is just £5). The courts are available from Wednesday through to Sunday: to make a booking phone Graeme Low on 01462 712504 and make him aware you are a Lea Sports Pirton member.





Nags Head vs. Reserves: Club Appeals Committee Decision

The Reserves travelled to Dunstable on February 18th to play a league game vs. Nags Head. After getting changed and warming up we were informed that the referee had not turned up and they had no-one who could take the whistle. We offered to go down to 10 men to share the job, but since Nags Head only had 10 men anyway at 10.30 they refused. Their 11th man turned up at 20 to 11, but they still would not agree to a referee, so we all came home again. To our amazement we learned that the Committee had decided to declare the game void (no points to either team) and to fine **both** clubs £15. We have pointed out to the league that for the home match in January it was one of our players who had to referee and that I as linesman suffered verbal abuse throughout the game. Our appeal requests that the league award the 3 points to us and rescind the fine. I wonder why it is that referees are always failing to turn up for Nags Head's fixtures—maybe it's just coincidence.....

Golden Boot Race hots up!

Lewis Smith notched his 26th goal of the Season as the Reserves recorded a 2-0 victory over Magnum (ABC) Reserves in the last game of March. His two nearest rivals for the Golden Boot are Adam Nunn from the Under 12s (on 19 goals) and Jamie Richards from the First XI (on 18 goals). Both the Reserves and Under 12 have 4 league games to go, but the Under 12s still have League Cup games to come. The Firsts finish their campaign with two games against AFC Chalk Hill.

End of Season Awards Evening

The Awards Evening has now been booked for Stopsley Working Mens Club on 15th June 2007. Details of ticket prices will be decided shortly and Managers will have tickets available. All players should make sure they cast their vote for the Players' Player for their particular team. There may not be too much silverware to celebrate this year, but it should still be a good night out for all Club members.

Ref gets the wind up!

Lea Sports Pirton Reserves suffered the frustration of having their game with Crown (Sundon) abandoned at Leagrave Park on 18th March. Referee Dai Cole was not keen on starting the game in the very high wind and abandoned it after 35 minutes when the ball flew a good distance from the pitch after a wayward shot. Players in the four other matches at Leagrave looked on in surprise as the players trudged off. Meanwhile, in Pirton on the same morning the First Team benefited from the conditions as goalkeeper Callum Boseley scored the final goal in a 3-1 defeat of Postels 2000. Having been robbed of victory in the away game, goals from Jamie Richards and Greg Whelan made sure of the points this time after Postels had taken a first half lead. Danny Butler was on target for the Under 12s as they recorded a 1-0 win in a difficult game away to Leighton United

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Congratulations Stevenage Borough

Congratulations go to Stevenage Borough Under Thirteens, who play their home games on our pitches in Pirton. On March 11th they beat Sherrardswood and Birchwood Rangers 2-1 at the County Ground in Letchworth to take the Under Thirteen County Cup.



April Fool!

The Month Starts Badly

April 1st proved to be a bad day for the Club as none of the three teams in action finished victorious.

The First Team crashed to their first defeat since 14th January when they went down 5-2 in Houghton Regis to AFC Chalk Hill. This left them needing to beat Chalk Hill in the return fixture on 29th April to secure 4th place in the League.

The Reserves failed to make the most of a 1-0 half-time advantage against Crown (Sundon) and conceded a second half equalizer. This result left the Reserves needing to win their last 2 games also to secure 4th place.

Perhaps the most disappointing result of the day was the Under 12s exit from the League Cup at the hands of Division 2 Sundon Park Rangers. Despite taking the lead after a couple of minutes, the Under 12s failed to add to their tally and were pinned back by an equalizer near the end of normal time. Sundon went into extra time with their tails up and scored two further goals to spoil the Under 12s' dream of retaining the trophy.

Vol. 1, No. 9, May 2007

Firsts In Charge

In the First vs. Second team friendly on 15th April Titch Bevan took advantage of an injury to Gav Bidgood in the Reserves' goal to put the senior side two up at the interval. The Reserves continued to play some good football but couldn't get the ball in the net. Meanwhile Jack Baggett, guesting for the First Team, broke away in the second half to place the ball past his dad and give the Firsts a 3-0 win.

BRIGHTON TRIP PLANNED FOR MAY 19th



The proposed trip to Brighton for the adult teams has now been finalised for Cup Final weekend—May 19th. The plan is to travel down by car on Saturday morning—watch the Cup Final in the afternoon and then partake of the delights of an English seaside resort in the evening before returning on the Sunday morning. For more details, or

to register your interest, contact Chairman Greg Whelan

Points in Midweek, but misery at the Weekend

The first midweek fixtures of the season went ahead on Tuesday April 17th, with both the Under 12s and Under 15s having home fixtures.

The Under 12s entertained a Leighton Utd side who were second to bottom in the table, having won only three games all season. The going was not all that easy, however, and at half time a single goal separated the teams, with Adam Nunn on target for the Pirton side. A further second-half strike from Matty Baxter gave Lea Sports the three points and moved them up to second in the table. On the other pitch, the Under 15s fancied their chances against a lowly Flitwick Eagles team. Two Goals from Aaron Brannigan gave the home team a 2-1 advantage and with Jake Howard having a great game in goal it looked as though all three points were coming our way, but a late equalizer gave Flitwick a deserved share of the spoils.

The Under 12s second place only lasted until the weekend, however, when they went down 2-4 to Bedford Town, with goals from Bradley Turner and Yusuf Mushtaq. The Under 15s' game also had six goals, but unfortunately they were all for Leighton United.



More Improvements in Pirton

Despite an appeal for helping hands, only Chairman Greg Whelan turned up to help members of the Sports & Social Club Committee as work went ahead in clearing out rubbish from the net cupboard and garage and improving the main clubhouse entrance.

New steps have been built to the main entrance and a new sign has been erected, all of which greatly improves the aspect for visitors to the Clubhouse. The April event was a General Knowledge quiz and the football club was well represented.

May will see a barbecue and disco take place on Friday 25th, so come along and welcome in the summer. Remember, *If it's the Last Friday of the Month, there's something on at the Rec...*

AGM Date Set

The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place at the Clubhouse at 8 pm on Wednesday May 30th. This is your opportunity to air any grievances or comment in any way on how the Club is run. Proposals from the Committee so far are to reduce adults' signing-on fees to £5 and to appoint a Child Welfare Officer, to conform with FA requirements. If you have any proposals for the AGM or any changes to the Constitution please let me have them in writing 2 weeks before the AGM. A current copy of the Club's Constitution is available on the website at www.leasportspirton.com.

End of Season Awards Evening

The Awards Evening has now been booked for Stopsley Working Mens Club on 15th June 2007. Details of ticket prices will be decided shortly and Managers will have tickets available. All players should make sure they cast their vote for the Players' Player for their particular team. There may not be too much silverware to celebrate this year, but it should still be a good night out for all Club members.

Reserves Hand Hillymede Horners a Hammering!

Playing against a side often regarded as a bogey team—Hillymede Horders—the Reserves ran riot in the sunshine at Pirton on April 22nd. On a rock-hard pitch Lea Sports stormed into an early advantage, with a rare headed goal from Archie Conway, and never looked back. A first-half hat-trick from Greg Whelan and a goal from Luke Day gave the home team a 5-0 interval lead. Luke scored again early in the second period before Hillymede grabbed one back with a rare breakaway. The goals kept coming, however, and a further Day goal and one from Jamie Richards saw the Reserves run out winners by 9-1. Top scorer Lewis Smith missed the game with a sprained ankle! Gutted!!

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Firsts and Seconds Complete Their Programmes

More midweek matches for the Youth teams: on Tuesday 24th April the Under 15s travelled to Crawley Green and played well for most of the match except for a spell in the second half—they eventually went down 5-2. Unfortunately, this scoreline was repeated in their trip to Markyate on 29th April.

The Firsts and Seconds both completed their programmes with games at Pirton on 29th April. And both won their matches to claim fourth place in their respective divisions. Goals from Jamie Richards and Greg Whelan gave the First XI a 2-1 win over a very good AFC Chalk Hill team, while the Reserves were playing their re-arranged fixture vs. Crown (Sundon) after the abandoned match in the wind at Leagrave in March. The Reserves beat Crown 5-1 to leap-frog them into fourth place. Lewis Smith scored twice to take his season tally to 29, whilst Luke Day, Ben Thomson and Jon Whitehead also scored as the Reserves reached 1500 League goals since 1977.



Archie Closes in on the Record

Another dozen appearances

Archie Conway, who made a scoring debut for Lea Sports in a Third Team friendly vs. Luton Teachers' Social Club on 11th October 1981, has now amassed 580 appearances for the Club. He has moved into second place in the all-time appearances list, overtaking Rick Vipers' 572 games, and now is just 12 games behind Kelvin Callow's 592 appearances. With a bit of luck—and plenty of bandages and linament—next season will see Archie top the list.



Vol. 1, No. 10, June 2007

Website Update

All of this season's records have now been added to the history on the website, including the latest addition to the 200 Club.

Why not have a browse at www.leasportspirton.com

**AGM May 30th
8.00pm Pirton**

New Under 11 Team for 2007-08

We are pleased to announce that our existing contacts with Shillington & Gravenhurst Utd (which produced our current successful Under 12 team) have meant that a new Under 11 team will be in operation next season. The current Under 10 team finished 3rd in the Filmergraphics Division 1 and were League Cup semi-finalists. Any boys interested in joining should contact Manager Martin Hirst on 01462 712015.



Under Twelves Claim The Runners-Up Position

The Under 12s went into their final league match on May 3rd knowing that only a win would secure them the runners-up spot in the Chiltern Youth League Division 1. The omens before the game were not good: top scorer Adam Nunn was out injured; at least two of the other boys were suffering with illness and injury and the match was against the Champions AFC Dunstable who had dropped just one point all season and who had won the corresponding away fixture 3-0.

However, right from the start the Pirton side made it clear that it was they who wanted the points. Just as in the AC Milan vs. Manchester Utd fixture the night before, it was the team in red and black stripes who dominated the game and outclassed their illustrious opponents. After 15 minutes a flowing move released Yusuf Mushtaq down the left and his shot gave the Dunstable keeper no chance as it flashed into the far corner of the net. In the second half Mushtaq on the left and Jack Mordecai on the right wing continued to harass the Dunstable defence, while the Dunstable forwards found no joy against a resolute Pirton back four. A free-kick from the right was headed home by Bradley Turner to give the home side a 2-0 advantage and a shot from the edge of the box by Jack Mordecai made it 3-0 to hand Dunstable their first defeat and to take the Lea Sports team a point clear of Bedford Town and into second place for the second year running.



Under Fifteens' Season Finally Comes to an End

The Under 15s completed their season on May 13th at Pirton—their ninth game since April 15th. The two preceding games had seen the lads take a point and suffer a narrow 3-2 defeat in back-to-back games against St. Josephs. The final game was against Championship-contenders Hexton and despite losing to 2 goals in each half in the pouring rain, the team put in a disciplined performance and were never outplayed.

Lewis Grabs the Golden Boot

Lewis Smith became the first adult winner of the Club's Golden Boot award—the trophy given to the Club's top scorer. He finished on 29 goals—22 of these were in the League, although he missed a penalty in the game at Caddington and missed the 9-1 thrashing of Hillymede when injured. Three goals came in the County Cup, 2 in the A&B Challenge Cup, one in a First XI friendly and the memorable strike to beat AC Sportsman Reserves in the Reserve Cup. His nearest rivals for the award were Jamie Richards on 20 (including 1 for the Reserves) and Adam Nunn on 22 for the Under Twelves.



End of Season Awards Evening

The Awards Evening has now been booked for Stopsley Working Mens Club on 15th June 2007. No tickets are being printed—be prepared to pay your Manager on the night itself (£5 adults, £10 family). All players should make sure they cast their vote for the Players' Player for their particular team. There may not be too much silverware to celebrate this year, but it should still be a good night out for all Club members. (The Under 15s have their own Evening at the Clubhouse in Pirton on June 9th.)

More Trophies for the Under 12s!!

On April 27th the Under 12 Management Team ran out winners at the General Knowledge Quiz held at the Sports & Social Club. Their score of 155 was some 15 points clear of second place, thereby proving that they spend all their time watching films and listening to musicals. (No sour grapes there, then.) The lads then rounded off another excellent season on the pitch with victory in the Luton Town Tournament on May 19th.

On May 25th there will be a 60s/70s disco—all are welcome and entry is FREE. Come and welcome in the summer at the Rec.

If it's the Last Friday of the Month, there's something on at the Rec...

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Nags Head Fine Rescinded

At their Meeting on 5th April 2007 the Committee of the North Home Counties League considered the appeal from Lea Sports about the game between Nags Head and our Reserves. The appointed referee failed to turn up for this fixture and both clubs were fined £15 each and the match declared void.

Although the fine against us was rescinded and our £5 appeal fee returned, the decision to award no points stands. Fortunately, this makes no difference to the Reserves' final league position, but the decision is, of course, a nonsense. Nothing will change until a situation arises with one of the 'glamour' clubs in the Premier division. Let's see what happens when a referee for a St. Josephs match fails to turn up and their opponents refuse to agree on a substitute. Somebody might then do something about this ridiculous law.



Premier League Competition Goes to the Wire

Results in the Premier League on the last day of the season made all the difference in the Premier League Competition. Despite leading with just 2 weeks to go, Blackburn and Reading finally did for me, and I could only finish 7th. Even my son Lewis dropped to fifth place—just out of the prize money, so I don't suppose he'll ever pay me back the entry fee now.

Wooden spoon winner with a magnificent 130 points was Catherine Line—still, if you will put Manchester City to finish as Runners-up...



A late run from Ed Thomson took him to second place with 38 points, but the Competition winner with 34 points is Chris Hawkes. Chris's total has only ever been bettered once in the 21 years the Competition has been running—when Andy Barron recorded just 30 points in 1999-2000. So it's a first prize of £50 to Chris—and I'm off to redesign the software!

See all the results on the website at www.leasportspirton.com.

Next year's entry forms will be available soon!!

Well Done Stevenage

I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating Stevenage Borough on their victory in the FA Trophy at Wembley on May 12th.

The next morning, their Under 13s were playing Icknield Youth at Pirton and they brought the trophy along to the Recreation Ground for all to see.



Stevenage recovered from being a goal down at half-time to beat Icknield 4-1. They then finished their season with a 3-1 win over Crawley Green and a 6-1 victory over AFC Dunstable in their last game at Pirton to take the Division One Championship.



Hats Off to the Under Twelves

Hatters Tournament Winners

Vol. 1, No. 11, July 2007



F.A. Cup Final day brought some footballing success to the Club as the Under Twelves won the Hatters Tournament at Kenilworth Road.

Well done lads!

BRIGHTON TRIP—MAY 19th

The town of Brighton gave a huge sigh of relief as the Lea Sports tour on May 19th passed off without incident (unless you count



.....Baggy dancing).





Awards 2006-2007

The Club's annual awards were presented over two evenings in June. The Under 15s held their own Presentation Night in Pirton on 9th June and the Adults and Under 12s held an event at Stopsley Working Men's Club on June 15th.

A full list of the awards follows:

Manager's Player:	First XI: Jamie Richards; Second XI: Paul MacLennan; Under 15s: Andrew Jackson; Under 12s: Jack Stanton
Players' Player:	First XI: Simon Jackson; Second XI: Lewis Smith; Under 15s: Jake Howard; Under 12s: Adam Nunn
Top Scorers:	First XI: Jamie Richards (20); 2nd XI: Lewis Smith (29); Under 15s: Aaron Brannigan(9); Under 12s: Adam Nunn(22)
Golden Boot:	Lewis Smith
Supporters' Player:	Under 15s: Jake Howard; Under 12s: Adam Nunn
Under 15s Clubman:	Matthew Day
U/15s Most Improved Player:	Danyal Javed
U/15s Man of Match	(1) Jake Howard, (2) Matthew Day, (3) George Chapman
The 200 Club:	Gavin Bidgood
President's Award:	Greg Whelan

Grants Info

The Club has received grants from the Football Foundation and Pirton Sports & Social Club towards the cost of new aluminium goals for the main adult pitch at Pirton. These goals were delivered a couple of weeks ago and will be installed at the end of July, ready for the Premier Cup matches in August. Brand new red and black nets have also been bought for this pitch, as well as new junior nets for the Under 11 team. A set of corner posts and flags, which disappeared after the last game of the season, has been replaced. Further grant aid is being sought from the Football Foundation and the Local Area Network towards the cost of kit and equipment for the new Under 11 team.

PHOTOS WANTED...If you have any Lea Sports photos, please e-mail them to me (or post originals and they will be returned to you). Thanks.

Premier League Competition

Entry forms are now available for the 2007-08 Competition. Pick one up at the Clubhouse, or download one from the Club website (www.leasportspirton.com). There are also a few spare copies of the 2006-07 Yearbook, which will be stored in the trophy cabinet at the Clubhouse, Help yourself if you haven't got a copy already.



The Premier Cup will be competed for again in August. At present, the Clubs to be invited will probably be the same as last year; i.e. Houghton Wanderers, The Globe and Peguform, with the matches being played on August 16th, 23rd and 30th.