

HYKEHAM TIGERS JFC

I would like to start this month by congratulating the Gazette on its 5th Birthday and on behalf of everyone associated with the Tigers, thank the publication for all the support and publicity it has given us. It really is a community magazine rather than just an advert driven publication, this is obvious from the numerous people who comment on the column every month. So Happy Birthday, well done and keep up the good work. (Incidentally, Hykeham Tigers will also be 5 years old during 2011 - but more on this nearer the time.)

Well I'm happy to see that snowdrops have started to appear instead of snowflakes and that football has recommenced after the bad weather, hopefully with spring nearly upon us (I hope I'm not tempting fate..).

After such a long lay off it really was like starting the season all over again but the younger players were as eager as ever and the U7's enjoyed a good run out against North Lindum Hawks, while the U8's managed to get in games against St Helens and Cherry Colts.

At the competitive U9 age group the B team enjoyed a 7-2 win over Lowlands, while the C team narrowly went down 1-0 at Babworth. In the U10 age groups at the time of writing only the B side have managed to restart their campaign with a good 5-0 victory at Welton B.

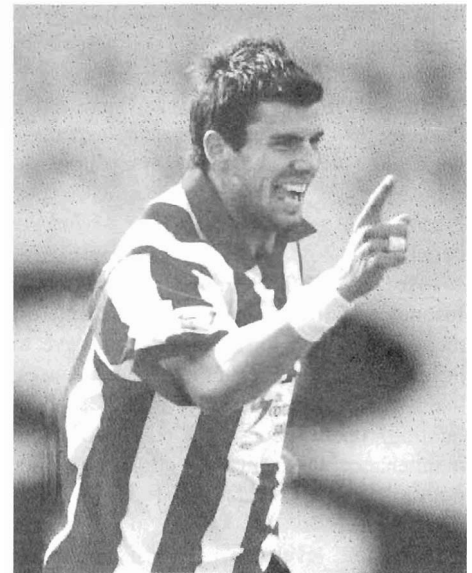
The U11A team have their season back under way as they shared the goals and points with Spilsby in an end to end match that ended 2-2, while the C team romped to a 7-1 victory over Kirkstead Crusaders. The U12B have also managed to restart the season going down 4-1 to Saxilby.

The long lay off really did seem to have an effect on the U13A team, as they went goal mad, scoring seven against Boston Town but unfortunately seemed to forget how to defend as they conceded eight. Evidently this was a really exciting game that saw-sawed from end to end attracting a large crowd at Fen lane, and I'm told many of the goals would not look out of place in the premier division. Although I'm sure both managers would have rather endured something more mundane for their first game back after the forced break as I'm reliably informed that a certain manager was an exhausted gibbering wreck by the end of the game.

The U14's also went down by the odd goal, this time on the wrong end of a close 4-3 scoreline at Alford. The U14 girls however had a fantastic day out at Scunthorpe as they won 5-3 to reach the semi final of the cup - well done girls.

On the subject of girls, we are desperately in need of more U12 age group girls (School Year 6). The reason being at the moment we have some very good U12 girls who are playing in a mixed team with the boys but as per F.A rules next season they are no longer eligible to play as a mixed sex team. They are all very committed and keen to carry on after the end of this season, so are desperate for new recruits to allow an U13 girls team to form for next season. So if any girls have ever thought about playing football, (it doesn't matter how good or bad you think you may be - all we ask for is you are committed and enjoy it), then please get in touch.

The next few months are going to be very busy for the Hykeham Tigers as we start organising our Summer Tournament and Gala days, as well as looking to put on



a murder mystery evening at the Ark in Hykeham (again keep a look out on the website for more details).

I end this month's column on the recent sad news of the untimely death of Macclesfield (and ex Lincoln City Player), Richard Butcher. Many tributes have already been made about Richard through the various press and media, but I believe the most important thing that can be said (particularly from a junior football team), is that as a professional player he was admired and respected wherever he went. Younger players looked up to him, his team mates (past and present respected him), and he always had time for all the fans of whatever team he has played for. The fact that many many tributes have been made by fans of all the teams he played for speaks volumes. A true footballer to look up to and role model for youngsters. Lincoln City Legend - Richard Butcher R.I.P.
Yours in Sport...

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