

HYKEHAM TIGERS JFC



"It looks like the game could be off!"

Unless you've been living abroad for the past month (lucky you), you can't fail to have noticed that winter 2010/11 has seen the climate in the Hykeham area more reminiscent to that of the North Pole. So much so that I can report during the last four week period, out of approximately 80 matches scheduled to take place involving Tigers teams, the grand total of NONE have actually taken place.

Snow, frozen pitches and more snow have called a complete halt to the football season. I can remember short cold periods in the past when entire weekends' matches have been lost but never before for such a long sustained period. At this rate we will be playing in the summer.

That scenario got me thinking. Would that actually be such a bad thing? Particularly for the younger age groups, playing during the late spring / early summer months with breaks taking place during the School Summer holiday period and in the worst of the

winter weather and Christmas period through December and January. Even if we were lucky enough to have a hot summer, matches could be scheduled for the light warm summer evenings.

Even taking those thoughts a step further, could not shorter, more mini league campaigns be organised, instead of one long season with up to 26 matches, how about two shorter 13 game competitions, as however hard the league organisers try to re-evaluate teams and put into leagues of similar ability, it is always obvious after a few games that there are teams in the wrong league because players have come or gone since the last campaign, and it does children no good to be losing, or even winning games by double figure goals each week. Shorter duration league campaigns would mean the league organisers could re-evaluate teams and abilities at least twice a year, so a team doesn't spend 8 months in a league that is not suited to its ability.

Personally, I think two mini leagues a year, with suitable breaks, backed up by cup competitions and tournaments in this format would be a lot more beneficial to our younger players. I hasten to add, before I get into trouble, that these are only my thoughts, but I would be interested to know what other teams, managers and coaches think.

Anyway, enough of the thoughts of the Tigers' Press Officer and back to a couple of things that have been going on. The Tigers Christmas Bowling

night was very successful with nearly 200 children braving the winter elements for a very enjoyable nights bowling and buffet, our thanks go to Washingborough Bowling Alley for their hospitality.



Young Tigers enjoy bowling

We are also very proud and pleased to announce that another of our players has been offered a place with the Lincoln City Centre of Excellence. This time U10C goal keeper, Aaron Bestward.

Aaron has played over 40 games for the Tigers and during that time has been regularly praised for his performances by his manager, team mates and opponents alike, so it was no real surprise that following a trial with Lincoln City, he was offered a place. Aaron will now be travelling the country playing football with the centre of excellence. We wish him well and hope that he has a bright future in football. Just don't forget your roots Aaron.

All it leaves me to say is keep warm and, hopefully, an early start to spring and some football matches are just around the corner (or is that just wishful thinking).

Yours in Sport...

Mark Williams
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