

HYKEHAM TIGERS JFC

A couple of months ago (while the bad weather was putting a stop to actually playing football), I made a few general comments and observations on the structure of youth football and asked if anybody else, players, parents or coaches involved had any thoughts on the matter. Wow, what a feedback! I was inundated with messages via phone, email and the web. I think I certainly touched on an emotive subject.

However, the main response I got was not particularly about the structure of the games or leagues, but the amount of travelling that is involved, particularly for the younger age groups. Some of the comments stated such facts as children aged only six or seven years of age, were often expected to travel over 70 miles round trip for what could be only 30 minutes playing time of football. (younger age groups only play 20 minutes each way, and can have up to a squad of 12, with only 7 players playing at any one time).

One feedback in particular quoted an occasion recently (with their team trying to catch up games from the bad weather), where they had to travel to the East Coast on a Saturday for a match, then to the Boston area on the Sunday. As he quite rightly stated, although this was due to unusual circumstances the fact remains that young children from the Lincoln area, often over a course of a season, have to travel right to the extreme North, East and West of the County.

Another feedback centred around the cost of such travel, (particularly in the current circumstances), and questioned whether their child would continue playing football next season due to the travel costs involved.

The league for children's football in this area is the Mid Lincs, so it is a bit of a difficult situation as Lincolnshire is such a vast county, imagine some of the journeys that teams in the say, Boston area have to make on a regular basis. The reverse argument is that because of the diversity and widespread nature of teams, the Mid Lincs is one of the strongest leagues in the country, with some very high standards and to localise this into say just a Lincoln and district League would reduce some of that competitiveness and no doubt cause issues where there are not really enough teams to run their stand-alone leagues.

Maybe a two tier Mid Lincs format would work, whereby leagues are regionalised for say the age groups below age 11, (although this may mean teams playing each other more times over a season), then county wide leagues for the older 11-a-side age groups. It looks like I certainly opened a can of worms and, of

course, any other comments or feedback is welcome.

Back to performances on the pitch and the U7 and 8 age groups have enjoyed non competitive matches at Sleaford, Caythorpe and Fulbeck, scoring plenty of goals in the process.

The U9A team suffered narrow defeats at Birchwood and HBW (1-0 and 3-1 respectively) before bouncing back with a great 11-1 victory at Welton. Meanwhile the 9B's also had mixed results, this time going down 4-1 to East Coast, then beating Heckington by the same scoreline. The 9C team continue in a good run of form and have recorded three more victories, 3-2 at East Coast, 3-0 at home to Tuxford and 4-0 against Welton. The proudly sit top of the league going into the final two months of the season, well done boys.



Hykeham U9A team

At the U10 age group the A team recorded a hard fought single goal victory at Welton, while the B side remain in a tight battle with Woodhall Spa at the top of the league, the Tigers cause being helped by victories over East Coast and Fishtoft, (1-0 and 4-1 respectively). The 10C team also earned a good victory, 1-0 at Welton.

On to the U11 age group and the A team's cup run was ended by a 3-0 defeat at Wyberton, however they bounced back in the league with a close 5-4 victory over Mablethorpe. The U11C team also enjoyed a good 5-2 victory at home to HBW Utd.

The U12A's shared the point in a 2-2 draw at Young Dons before taking all the points with a 4-1 victory over Cranwell. The B side at the U12 age group enjoyed a good victory over Boston Community (5-0), but were on the wrong end of 3-0 and 2-1 scorelines, against Welton and Market Rasen.

In the U13 age group there were back to back victories for the A team, as they twice beat Old Leake, 11-3 and 9-1 (home and away respectively). The U13B suffered narrow defeats (5-2) and (4-3) away to Caythorpe and Boston, while the C side also suffered defeats against Wragby and HBW.

For the older age groups

there was a narrow 1-0 defeat for U14's against Spilsby, while the U15's also went down against Lowlands (5-1). The Girls however have enjoyed a good 2-2 draw at Gainsborough but were unlucky to go out of the cup (semi final), 5-1 against Solar.

Seven more players have recently joined the Tigers 100 club. This is for players who have shown great commitment and loyalty to the club by achieving 100 appearances, so congratulations and hopefully lots more games to come for Glenn Mullins (U9C), Thomas Bontoft (U13C), Sam Ward (U13A), Jake Lockwood (U15), Joe Langcaster (U15), Samuel Duckering (U12B) and James Wagstaff (U15). Well done Guys.

On Saturday 26th March, the club will be hosting a 50's theme murder mystery evening at the Ark Centre on Moor lane in North Hykeham. The evening will commence at 7.30pm, entry by ticket only at a cost of just £5, (which also includes a fish and chip supper). We want this to be a real Hykeham community event so everybody is welcome. Apart from the murder mystery, there will be quizzes and games going on as well as lots of 50's music and a bar. 1950's fancy dress is optional but will greatly add to the occasion. For further information and tickets contact Mike Moore on 07986 474057.

There is lots going on over the next few months at the Tigers, with dates for the fun day now set for Sunday 10th July and the very popular five a side tournament to take place over the weekend of 11th / 12th June. Everybody is more than welcome at any of these events.

Yours in Sport.

Mark Williams - Press Officer
Hykeham Tigers JFC

MURDER MYSTERY EVENING

+ Fish & Chip Supper

Saturday, 26th March 2011, 7.30PM



Your are invited to the Opening Night of

GREASED DINER



It should be fun. it may be great. it WILL be MURDER..

The Ark
Moor Lane
North Hykeham

Tickets £5
Including
Fish & Chip Supper

Telephone Mike Moore on 07986 474057 for tickets
Or see any Hykeham Tigers manager

Optional 1950's Theme Fancy Dress.

WWW.HYKEHAMJFC.ORG.UK