

MAIDENBOWER COLTS FC

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 22



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

23/23 SEASON DATES

- **04/09** - Mid Sussex Youth Football League start.
- **10/09** - Horsham & District Youth Football League start.
- **10/09** - South Surrey Youth Football League start.
- **11/09** - Crawley & District Youth Football League start.
- **18/09** - Tandridge Youth Football League start.
- **01/10** - Colts Winter Training Programme (all weather pitches)

Welcome to the start of the 22/23 grassroots youth football season - our football club's 24th season since its inception in 1998. Firstly, I must thank our incredible Coaching Team and extremely hard working Committee for getting us here, ready for the new season. So much has had to happen in the off-season to get the club ready for this; from registrations to new kits, to accreditations, insurances, facility bookings, qualifications, and DBS checks through to a packed pre-season training programme delivered by our Coaches.

The 22/23 season already feels a little more special as we enter it as **Grassroots Club of the Year**, awarded by Sussex County FA, as part of the England Football & McDonald's Grassroots Awards 22. This is a massive achievement for our club, and recognition genuinely deserved by the forward thinking, hard work and dedication of our Coaching Team and Committee. Every one a volunteer. It is also testament to the commitment and support shown by not only our Players but also parents and guardians - **thank you**.

We start this season with **144 registered Players across 10 teams (plus Mini Colts)**. This season we are very pleased to be playing across **5 youth football leagues**; the Crawley & District Youth Football League, The Tandridge Youth Football League, The Mid Sussex Youth Football League, the Horsham & District Youth Football League and the South Surrey Youth Football League.

It's going to be an incredibly busy and action packed season!

Mini Colts

Our **Mini Colts** section is thriving and Coach Danny is already looking forward to the new cohort of Reception and SY1 Players joining him on the 11th September. Danny will be joined by Assistant Coach Jake who joins us through our Player Pathways Initiative. Our Mini Colts sessions are focussed on teaching the basics of the game in a fun, encouraging and safe environment. Mini Colts are the lifeblood of our club and are the foundation of a child's grassroots journey. The sessions are held on Sunday mornings on 3G pitches and are pay as you play, with no registration/joining fee or need for direct debits.

U7 - U10

Last season's Mini Colts have graduated to U7 teams and start their grassroots football journey in the CDYFL on Sunday 11th. They are already so very excited and we are hugely proud to see them so eager (and ready) to get going!

The **U7 Red Team** will be led by Coach Tom and Assistant Coaches Ian and Dan, Coaches who have been with these Players during their transition from Mini Colts to U7s. We are very pleased to welcome Coach Paul to the Colts Coaching Team who will lead the **U7 Black Team** this season. Paul is a familiar face having been in and around our club for the past 3 years. Paul will be supported by Harry who was an Assistant Coach at Mini Colts last season and who has come up through our Player Pathways Initiative.

For the 22/23 season, we have three U10 teams. After a successful 21/22 season, Coaches Rachelle and Keith's **U10 Red Team** are venturing further afield this season with their team joining the Tandridge Youth Football League. The **U10 Black Team**, led by Coach Paul and Assistant Coach Matt, and **U10 White Team**, led by Coach Lee and Assistant Coach Stephen, will both return to action in the the CDYFL on the 11th September.

U11 - U16

Our two **U11 teams** progress from Mini-Soccer (CDYFL) to 9 a-side football, played on grass and, for the first time, with Linesmen and the offside rule to contend with! The **U11 Red Team** will be Led by Coaches Darren and Kais. They will be supported again this season by Assistant Coach James, who started his coaching (and refereeing) career through our Player Pathways Initiative. Our **U11 Black Team** will be led by Coaches Gareth and Craig and we are pleased to welcome back Coach Nick, who will support them. Both teams will play in the Horsham & District Youth Football League with their first 9v9 games on 10th September.

After a very strong finish to their 21/22 season, winning the Mid Sussex Youth League Plate Competition in April, our **U13 Team** said goodbye to Coaches Gavin and Michael and welcomed Coach Andrew. Coach Andrew is a parent of a U11 and a U13 Player and has been coaching with Colts for the past three years. He will be joined by Assistant Coach Matt, also a U13 Parent. We are very pleased to have Andrew and Matt onboard and really looking forward to seeing what our U13s can achieve playing in the A Division of the Horsham & District Youth Football League this coming season. Their first 11v11 game will be on the 10th September.

Our **U16 team's** season is already underway! They grabbed a solid 3 points on the 04th September having moved across to the Mid Sussex Youth Football League this season. Coach Darren will be joined this season by Assistant Coach Neil as they mount their 22/23 campaign.

U17/18

Coaches Paul and Rob push on with their team as U17/18s this season. After finishing 2nd in their league last season, and winning the Horsham & District Youth League Plate Competition, they move across to the South Surrey Youth Football League. A new challenge for Coaches and players alike. Mitch, a qualified Coach and our brilliant Club Kit & Equipment Manager, will be assisting Paul and Rob this season.

Goodbyes

Our **U16 Red Team** disbanded at the end of the 21/22 season. An incredible group of young men, led by the equally incredible **Coach Pete and Assistant Coach, Baz**. A huge and sincere thank you to both Pete and Baz for everything they have done. True legends of our club. We'd also like to wish our Players the best of luck with what comes next for them.

Coach James, of last seasons U15s, has decided to take a break from Coaching this season. We are hoping that James will soon return to Colts to take on a new challenge - watch this space.

Off Pitch

Off the pitch, we are in the process of pulling together a programme of events for the season. We will continue to run our **Goalkeeper Academies** throughout the season, our **nutrition education** partnership with Youth Sport Nutrition will continue and we will be holding our first **Captain's Forum** (inc. VC's) once the season is underway. We will be changing the way we deliver our **Annual Awards** as a whole club at the end of the season and have some exciting plans in play for this. In addition to our annual awards, we will be recognising achievements more frequently throughout the season with the newly introduced **Chairman's Coin Award**. I'll write again with more detail when this programme is complete.

Enough is Enough

As the new season commences, the **Football Association** have launched its '**Football Deserves Better - ENOUGH IS ENOUGH**' campaign. This aims to proactively seek out, call out and stamp out any abusive behaviour towards players of either side, Coaches, match officials and spectators. This campaign aligns with our own **club zero tolerance policy** towards unacceptable behaviour. **Our Club Codes of Conduct** can be found on our website at: <https://mcfc1998.com/codes-of-conduct>

Club Committee

After 4 years in the role, **Danny Picknell** has decided to step down as Club Chairperson. Danny, an incredibly popular and well known ambassador for our club, has been with Maidenbower Colts FC for over 10 years. During which he has Coached at just about every age group and held many different roles on the committee. We are very pleased that Danny will continue to manage and coach our Mini Colts section and look forward to his return to the Committee when the time is right (he won't be able to stay away for long!). We will look to appoint a new Club Chairperson at a Special General Meeting in the coming weeks.

Sarah Bennett is leaving our club where she has been our Registrations Secretary. Sarah has been nothing short of amazing during her time with Colts. Her role has ranged from making sure every Player is registered to the right team and into the right league, to handling our accreditations and eligibility for leagues. Sarah, who is also on the CDYFL Committee, will be taking on a more significant role at the CDYFL after the sad passing of local grassroots legend Terry Scott. Many of you will see Sarah on a Sunday at Broadfield 3G and I have no doubt she will remain involved with Colts to some degree. To keep things simple, we have appointed another Sarah to take over that role! We are very pleased to welcome **Sarah Owens** to the Committee. Sarah O was thrown in at the deep end, joining us just as the incredibly busy registrations period started - but, she has made this mammoth task seem like lite work! Her spreadsheets are already legendary.

I am very pleased to announce that **Richard O'Neill** will be returning to our club (did he ever actually leave?!) and taking on the newly established role of Head of Football & Coaching Development. Richard has coached at all age groups, both outfield and Goalkeeper, and has held almost every role on our Committee at one point or another, including Chairperson. With his experience and knowledge he will help our club to develop ways to better support our Coaching Team and what we deliver to our Player community.

Darren Holloway, Coach of our U16s, has taken on the role of Fixtures Secretary. This is a great appointment and a job that has previously been managed as a secondary duty by others. Darren will be responsible for liaising with the Fixtures Secretaries across all leagues and also for booking pitches for home games up and down the age groups.

Colts Need You!

In order to continue to be able to offer our Player community the best possible grassroots experience, we are looking for **volunteers to join our busy Committee**, either as a General Member or in a number of more specific roles.

We are also wanting to recruit a **Club Photographer**. This will suit someone who is a professional, a keen and capable photography hobbyist or a photography student. Like all roles within our club, this is a volunteer role and will be subject to DBS checks and Safeguarding Training.

If you would like to discuss joining our brilliant Committee please get in touch with me via email at cdo@mcfc1998.com

Good Luck!

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish our Players, Coaching Team, Committee, Parents and everyone involved with our amazing **'Grassroots Club of the Year'** the very best of luck for the new season.

Let the Players play, the Coaches coach and the Referees referee. But most of all, **enjoy the grassroots experience!**

Richie Coleman
Interim Club Chairperson
'Omnino'