# Newsletter

Issue #7 September 2021





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# // WELCOME //

Welcome to the OUFC club newsletter. I'm pleased that all teams have started the season. I've managed to see over half of our teams in matches, including all three men's teams. The first team are having a great start to the season picking up more wins this year than in the last two seasons combined, so well done Jamie, Mike and the team.

Coming up, we will be moving midweek training to winter facilities. This will mean we can look after our pitches at Otford Recreation Ground during the winter period.

We are also working hard behind the scenes to add another U7 team to partner the Terriers, another U8 team to pair with the Scorpions, working on a new manager on-boarding pack, website updates, a handover of the treasurer role and much more.

Come On You O's!!

- Stuart Cunningham, Chairman

# // NEWS //

Our club has expanded to 24 teams this year, which is great news! We would like to welcome all the new players, parents and families to Otford United FC for the 2021-22 season.

Due to this expansion, we have needed to secure an extra playing venue in the form of Shoreham Primary School's 9v9 pitch. Thank you to all of those involved in getting the pitch cut and marked ready for the season to start.

This means children joining a team from the youngest age group out of our Coaching School on Saturday mornings will start their Otford United FC journey based at the recreation ground at mini soccer level before making Shoreham Primary School their home when they reach 9v9. After that, moving to a junior sized 11v11 at Hale Lane Recreation ground and back to Otford Recreation ground to play on the full sized 11v11 pitches along with the adult teams.

Fees have also been reduced this season due to the pandemic. The committee felt it was only right to help everyone in these tricky times.

Our club kit has changed to Mitre and in line with our sustainability plan, kits have been issued to teams at odd age groups. This will happen every year as we look to reuse old kit in places where needed.

Through grants won from The Football Foundation and a Papa John's initiative, we were able to secure some new goal posts which will last for a long time and are removable so it should help stop people from playing in the goal mouths and protect the playing surface in and around the penalty boxes.

#### Calendar

N/A

# // VACANCIES //

#### SECRETARY

Sadly our club secretary, Tracey Moore, has stepped down due to commitments outside of football. We thank Tracey for her hard work while with the club and are now looking to appoint a new volunteer into this role. The secretary is the first point of contact for communication with and on behalf of the club. Day to day administrative duties include responding to communication from leagues, County FA's, and general enquiries, as well as arranging and minuting club meetings.

#### CLUB WELFARE OFFICER

We are also looking to take on a club welfare officer to look after safeguarding matters including on-boarding new staff, applying FA and County FA standards, and dealing with welfare issues as they arise.

# // MEN's TEAMS //

#### First XI - Kent County Premier

'The season has already been a roller-coaster from a results perspective and this is almost certainly down to the amount of squad changes we have had to make weekly due to availability. We have managed to incorporate more youth into the squad with some great new signings and the performances are improving by the week so we believe we are on the brink of a great run of results. We could and should have won our last 2 games and if we had we would now be sat in second place which is a sign of how we are progressing. We are really excited about the month ahead and where it can take us. COYOS!!!!!!!!!

- Mike Cunningham, First Team Manager

# Reserves - Kent County Div. Three West

'After a strong pre-season, we were both prepared and anxious to begin our first season back in the Kent Divisions. Since our first game we have had a few unlucky results, but are now starting to show the drive, ability and passion that will make other teams wary of us. This is thanks to a few new additions and players showing the resilience to never give up! I am confident and have absolute faith in the squad that we will deliver this season, start regaining our form and show everyone what we can do!'

- Scott Amos, Reserve Team Manager

#### Thirds - Sevenoaks & District Division One THIRD TEAM MANAGER WANTED

We are currently looking for a new third team manager. The third team play in the Sevenoaks District League and will provide a good platform for our younger players to progress. If this position is of interest please email chairman@otfordunitedfc.com

### **Upcoming Fixtures:**

Firsts - Kent County Premier 02/10 Kings Hill FC Away 09/10 Borden Village Home

Reserves - Kent County Div. Three West 02/10 Long Lane FC Reserves Home 09/10 Metrogas FC Reserves Away

Thirds - Sevenoaks & District Div 1 09/10 Rusthall FC Development Home 16/10 Kings Hill FC Reserves Home

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