

Dear Parents,

Some under 8/9 players represented the Academy v Charlton last Friday night. The fixture was arranged late as Charlton only asked last Monday. I did not want to turn the opportunity down and appreciate those of you that took the players along. It is obviously a busy time of the year. Unfortunately one keeper was ill and the replacement then came home from school ill. Those boys that did play, well done ,on not only your attitude and performance but being versatile.

A big part of the young players development is learning different positions. Thank you to Neil Harris for taking the team, he was pleased with you, I believe the scores were 1-4 and then 5-4. As mentioned before this is not our main concern, more how you are learning.

We have made a slight change on reports going out tonight. The existing members from last season will have an updated sheet, comments updated at the bottom. Matt and one of the coaches will talk to those parents and players.

With the new players we WILL talk to you tonight as well. As I started to write reports I could see the value in talking to you before we complete the reports. It is useful to gain more back ground, get feed back and talk to you on certain matters.

The newer player reports will go out On January 6th. That evening Matt and I would like to talk to you all and go through our Academy guide. Please make every effort to attend.

Unfortunately I can not be at training tonight as I am watching an FA youth cup game at Arsenal. I have said it before but a massive thank you to you all for a great start to this season. Every coach commented on the good quality of new players, the change of day this year meant we lost some good boys but we also kept many good ones. The depth of quality in the Academy is as good as we have had.

I was contacted by a Southend United member of staff regarding a contact they have with tours abroad. This is certainly an idea as we expand. The Man Utd trip will take place but will take a bit of time to arrange. This should be set by the end of January.

As mentioned last week everything slows up at pro clubs now. Future fixtures will be arranged, keep an eye on the website but you will be advised of these on the 6th January.

We have been contacted by a similar academy to play there under 9 and 11 boys on Tuesday December 29th. I appreciate some of you may be away or busy but thought others may be grateful to get the kids busy for an afternoon!. Matt and Gregg will talk to those age groups tonight to see if it is viable. If so the under 9 boys will meet at 1.30pm and under 11 boys at 2.30pm.

These games would take place at playfootball.net opposite Southend Hospital (the chase). As usual bring white shorts and socks, we will have tops. The pitch is 3G SO trainers and bladed boots could be used.

Dont forget training next Monday at Plumberow, 2.15pm-4.00pm. Also the soccer school is taking place Monday and Tuesday 10-3pm.

Have a great Christmas we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Thank you for your continued support, as ever if you have any questions please contact Kevin on 07768 581205.

Kevin, Matt and all the Academy Staff