

Stock United F.C. End of Season Report June 2009

If Stock Utd had won one more game last season the team would have finished sixth in division 2 of the Mid Essex League, rather than two places off the bottom on 18 points, with only Epping, who were relegated & Boreham finishing lower. This was due to the division being reduced to ten teams after three teams withdrew before the season was more than a few weeks old.

The highlight of the season was the 4-3 victory away to high flying Great Baddow, but with a different team being fielded for almost every game of the season, consistency was hard to find & crushing defeats at home 8-3 against Boreham & 6-1 against Great Baddow as well as a 7-0 drubbing away at Harold Wood & 6-0 away on the final day of the season against Tillingham, meant that avoiding relegation was the main priority.

The cup competitions all failed to offer an alternative avenue for success. Stock were defeated 4-3 at home by Shenfield in the division cup & 4-2 away to Haver Town of the Romford & District league in the Essex Junior Trophy. In the Dave Strachan trophy Stock progressed to the second round by defeating Epping, but after putting up stout resistance with a depleted team against premier division side Beacon Hill they were eventually overcome 4-1, having employed a 5-4-1 formation which brought further success in league matches thereafter.

Top scorer & player's player of the year for the second year running was Ray Coe with 16 goals. In the league Stock scored 34 goals & conceded 64. There were 29 players signed on, 10 were booked & 1 sent off in the season.

Jon's Prior's under 14's finished fifth in division 3 of the Blackwater & Dengie league & got to the semi final of their league cup. There was further club expansion as well with the formation of an under 7's team which spent the season training.

A race night was held in the village hall in February which raised £800 for the club's pitch fund. An enjoyable evening was had by all with Stock player Richard Willis winning the final by the odd length. There was more fundraising in the form of a six a side competition at the pitch in Mill Lane on June 14th which was won by Steve Gotobe's team.

The Mid Essex league has announced that from the 2009 – 2010 season all clubs must have suitable facilities including toilets & showers. The club is currently working on how this criteria can be met.

The club is always on the lookout for new players to strengthen both the senior and junior teams. Anyone who is interested in playing for the club should either contact me on (01277) 632301 or Jon Prior on (01245) 601096.

Finally, a big thank you goes out to everyone who helps the club to function at every level..

Keith Howell
Secretary, Stock Utd F.C.