

Stock United F.C. End of Season Report June 2010

With only a total of sixteen points to show for the season, Stock Utd finished one from bottom of division two in the Mid Essex League and were relegated along with City Colts who finished bottom.

Despite having thirty players signed on a number of players drifted away as the season progressed & the squad varied between 12 & 16 available players with the same team rarely playing two weeks running. Only five league games were won all season with a 5-0 thrashing of Brendans away from home being the highlight. Unfortunately, following this game there was a lengthy period of disruption due to the severe winter weather with the ground either being waterlogged, covered in snow or frozen. In the second half of the season a win against Boreham 3-1 away as the season was drawing to a close, briefly provided hope that the drop could be avoided, but this was cruelly dashed soon after with a 1-0 away defeat against Hutton, despite one of the best performances of the season.

In the cups Stock failed to progress beyond the 1st round of either the Dave Strachan trophy, losing in the second game of the season 3-1 away to Battlesbridge, or the division cup, losing at home 2-0 to Shenfield Hollands. The Essex Junior Trophy match at home against Scotia Billericay was not played due to the appointed referee withdrawing at the last minute & there not being enough time to find a suitable replacement. The Essex F.A. representative admitted there was insufficient time for him to find another referee, but insisted the club appoint a referee & the club were deemed by the Essex F.A. to be guilty of defaulting the fixture!

On a more positive note, the club signed on five youngsters, including a new goalkeeper, Matt Longden, who picked up the manager's player of the year award. Player's player of the year went to another of the new players, Tom Heap. Tom finished as joint top scorer with Ray Coe on nine goals. In the league Stock scored 33 goals & conceded 59. There were 30 players signed on, 9 were booked & 2 sent off in the season.

Jon's Prior's under 15's won the league and cup double in division 3 of the Blackwater & Dengie league with a dramatic 5-4 win in the final against Boreham, whilst in the league they took the title when Boreham only managed to draw their final game of the season 1-1 against Writtle.

There were no fundraising events as such during the season, but the end of season presentation raised over a hundred pounds for the pitch fund, an evening at which I was pleasantly surprised by being presented by Jon Prior with an award for 25 years service to the club.

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

Keith Howell
Secretary, Stock Utd F.C.