



Balham Blazers F C 2006-7 Season Review

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Balham Blazers 2006-07 season

News round-up

The 2006-7 season was another excellent one for the Blazers. The teams did exceptionally well once again bringing home five trophies as well as promotion to the A division for our Under 13s.



Minnies historic meeting with FA Chief Executive Brian Barwick and Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Culture Sport and Media in December

Under 11 player Minnie Cruttwell's campaign to have the FA ruling stopping girls playing mixed football after Under 11 changed has been successful with the FA agreeing to launch a pilot scheme next season allowing girls up to Under 14 to play mixed football. The situation will then be reviewed at the end of the season and hopefully changed for good.

Due to the continued success of our age groups we have been inundated with players wanting to join our teams. We started an Under 8s training squad this season, which has been very well supported and we hope to expand further in the future.

The season started with the Blazers being asked to open the new Tesco store at Clapham South and ended with a packed annual presentation evening.

We would like to thank Tesco's for being our main sponsor once again and Wandsworth based estate agents Robert Trindle & Company for becoming a new and very generous sponsor. Next season Robert has kindly agreed to be our main sponsor and we look forward to a long and fruitful partnership. We would also like to thank Parkgate Developments who kindly paid for our club banner which will be unveiled at our home ground at the beginning of the 2007-8 season. Many thanks also go to Lawrence and Beavan for their sponsorship of the website which has been an incredibly important addition to Balham Blazers.





Petts Means Prizes
We returned triumphant from the Petts Wood F.C. youth football tournament in Bromley, Kent, in May. The Blazers three age group teams all made the finals with the Under 11s and Under 14s winning a high standard tournament and the Under 13s finishing as runners up.

In July the U11s won the Furgate Youth F.C. tournament in West Sussex and the U13s won the South Park F.C tournament in Surrey.



Our three major fundraising activities all proved highly successful with the Sponsored Marathon, the Quiz Night and the Presentation evening all being very well supported by players, families and friends. A combined total of £2,500 was raised.

This was our first season playing at our new home ground in Dulwich which has one of the best playing surfaces in the Tandridge League. Unfortunately, due to the dreadful weather last winter the pitch was waterlogged for nearly two months and so

we didn't get to play on it as often as we would have liked.

This season also saw Under 14 player Joe Taylor-Holland break the club kick up record, which has to be done at training in front of other players. He broke the record not once but four times, ending up with an amazing total of 552.

In the following pages we have highlighted some of these stories in a little more detail.

A Trip To Trindle

The Blazers would like to welcome Balham based Estate Agents, Robert Trindle & Co, for becoming our major sponsor. Robert

himself is a life long Fulham supporter. Blazers players Charlie Barthorp, Fred Fox, Billy Holmes, Tom Jelliffe and Ned Mansfield from our Under 13 squad, with manager Grenville Fox, went to meet and thank in person Robert Trindle for his very generous sponsorship of the Blazers this season.



Record Breakers

April 2007 - After coming very close a few weeks earlier U13, Jamie Davis, smashed the club kick up record at training on April 3rd, becoming the first player to top 300 with a stunning 309. His record stood for only ninety minutes however as the previous record holder, Joe Taylor-Holland, who looked on as Jamie took his record, reclaimed it with a staggering 488. At training on April 24th, inspired by coach Robin Shroot doing a mean 500, Joe broke the record yet again with a magnificent, mesmerising 552.

Minnie Winning The Battle

The media circus surrounding young Blazers player Minnie Cruttwell has kicked in again as she seems to be winning her campaign to change the FA ruling stopping girls playing mixed football after Under 11. The FA are looking into launching a pilot scheme next season raising the age barrier to Under 14. There have been many articles and news items on Minnie again recently which included an interview in the July issue of highly regarded German football magazine "11 Freunde". Minnie is in illustrious company as the corresponding interview in the June issue was with Pele!





New Home Ground

Balham Blazers are delighted to have moved this season to a prestigious new home ground owned by Dulwich College school at the Trevor Bailey Sports

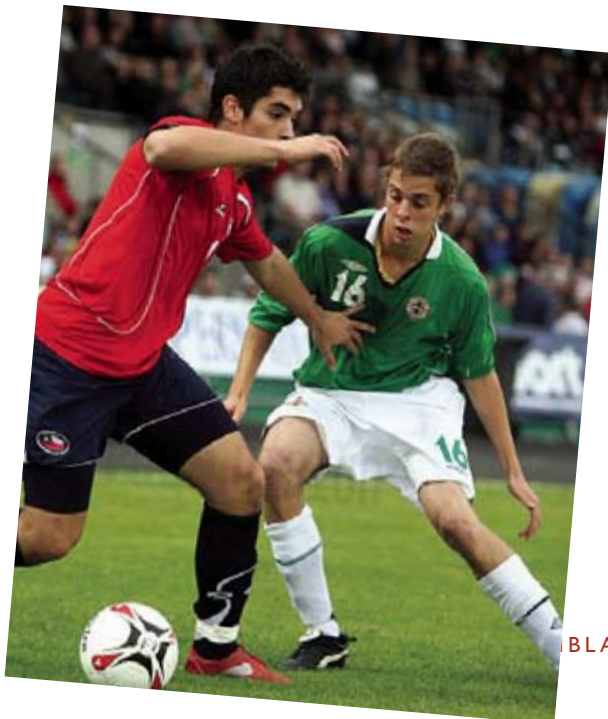
Ground. Having played previously on Tooting Common and at Fishponds Playing Fields in SW17 we are honoured to be the only outsiders granted use of the schools excellent sporting facilities.

Blazers International

One of the Blazers coaches, Robin Shroot, hopes he has taken his first steps towards captaining Northern Ireland after being called up to their U19 squad.

The 18-year-old has only a handful of appearances for AFC Wimbledon, the club he has supported since he was a boy, but it

has been enough to impress Northern Ireland's U19 boss, former Manchester United star Mal Donaghy, who called him into the squad to face Israel in Tel Aviv in March. Well done Robin.



Quiz Night

There was an excellent turn out for the second annual Balham Blazers quiz night in March. Thirteen teams battled it out over a fish and chip supper with the simply named, Table Seven, emerging victorious. The evening raised £500 for the club, which is almost double the total raised last year.



New Age Groups

In addition to the existing teams, the Blazers are starting an Under 8 age group this year. They will not be rushed into playing League football however but will spend the season training together and playing friendlies. Next year they will be entered into tournaments with a view to playing League football in their third season together.



Sponsored Marathon

The 2nd annual Balham Blazers Sponsored Marathon took place in September 2006. Players from different age groups, including our new Under 8s, each carried the baton for 1km. The marathon distance was completed in 3 hours 13 minutes, which eclipsed the time for 2005 when it was run in monsoon conditions. The event raised £1,500 for the club.



Rubel The Ref

We would like to thank our home referee Rubel Ahmed for all his officiating for us. We first met Rubel as a referee when our teams were playing in the London Saturday Youth Football League. When we moved to the Tandridge League and wanted and needed a quality ref to do our home games Rubel sprang to mind. We're delighted he accepted the offer to do our games. *Thanks also to John Jones for stepping in on the rare occasions when Rubel has been unavailable.*



Club Song

Balham Blazers would like to thank Tooting based group, No Natural Triangles, for writing a club song for us. The song, music and lyrics are copyright NNT and can be downloaded from our website.