

Respect Award

U13 Rangers

It has once again been my great pleasure to coach the Rangers team this season – the core of the squad has stayed stable and it's great to see the players evolve into footballing young men playing exactly the same roles now as the professionals do on TV or at Adams Park.

Even though results didn't always go our way this season - despite us achieving a satisfying 'double' over Chalfont St Peter - the boys have enjoyed their football I believe and have developed in stature, tactical awareness and footballing skill over the course of the season.

They have continued to perform well in training sessions and have started to understand the real value of teamwork, different tactics and extra work-rate / commitment in order to get a positive result. Also particularly pleasing for me is their attitude on the pitch – I can count on-pitch 'incidents' this season on the fingers of, well, zero hands! No yellow or red cards, no back-chat to referees and no altercations with anyone on the touchline that

I saw. They collectively serve the club exceptionally well in this regard and for that a great deal of thanks must go to all Rangers' parents for the influence you have on them – my personal thanks to you all for making my and the club's life much easier! This brings its own rewards and I'm really pleased to say that we won the CCJFL U13s *Respect* trophy this season, acknowledging that other teams recognise how we play our sport and handle ourselves in the correct manner. Very proud of this achievement!

In goal, **Christian Hudson** has continued to develop into a mature and capable young keeper – in what must seem like huge full-sized goals, he has worked hard on his handling and distribution and is someone we can really depend on in that position. On occasions where Christian hasn't been available, **Jonathan Herath** has filled in with enthusiasm and skill.

Defensively, we've moved this season to a full 'back four' and for nearly every match we were able to call on **Jacob Small** and **Denny Semanaj** at centre half – these two have now got a

great understanding of each other's games, which I hope will continue for several more seasons. At full-back we've gainfully employed **Brett Smith**, **Rhodri Pepperall**, **Ben Cody**, **Jonathan Herath** and **Alex Milligen**, and all have continued to thrive and are learning to understand some of the freedom they have in this role to support attacking play as well as acting in a defensive capacity.

Midfield is where I feel we've really kicked on this season – a lot of successful football is down to composure and good decision-making, and we've showed more signs of that this past season, attempting to keep the ball for longer, rather than just hopefully bash it up-field – that's been my mantra anyway! We've played either a 4-1-4-1 or a 4-4-1-1 formation and I've enjoyed seeing **Toby Chapman**, **James Ketley**, **Jack Farmer**, **Ben Lodge**, **Ben Stoolman**, **Ben Cody**, **Alex Milligen**, **Freddie Richardson**, **Kiel Starkey**, **Patrick Eley**, **Aidan Hearn**, **Burhan Shafique**, **Jonathan Herath** and **Jacob Small** fill various roles in the middle of the park, and many of these have chipped in with goals this season as well.

Up front, we've found goals harder to come by than we'd have liked (18 scored in total this season), but that's not been for the lack of effort up front from our trio of strikers, **Aidan Hearn**, **Freddie Richardson** and **Ben Stoolman**. All three have impressed with their work-rate, skill and determination to keep going even when we've been up against it. Aidan was top scorer this season with 6 goals and 3 assists, Freddie scored 4 goals and created 5 (joint top assists in the U13 division according to the official stats), while Ben S chipped in with 2 goals and 2 assists.

Onwards to next season, where I hope we can continue to improve and become even more competitive in the U14s division, am looking forward to it already. Finally, a particular note of thanks to my two coaches – **Liam Baxter** and **Dale Pepperall**, who have supported me with enthusiasm and dedication this season.

Dave Chapman (Head Coach)

