

U17 Tornados



Troopers 2007

Having had the headache of managing a squad of 21 players last season (how to share out the match time when you have 10 subs and still compete!?), we started the inaugural under 17 season with a drastically reduced number of players. Having come off the back of a brilliant season which saw us finish high up in the league and reach the Panthers' cup final, it was disappointing to see so many players leave. Inevitably, with the boys having to remain in full-time education or employment / training, with most also working part-time, leisure time is at a real premium – especially for those talented enough to play several different sports.

So our 2015/16 season started off with 13 players plus two new players (Ben Waterhouse and Corbin Vaughan). We were lucky enough to sign up another player (Frank Keegan) in the January transfer window to help us get to the end of what turned out to be a very long season, with our final match played on 21 May.

Our full squad for the 2015/16 season was therefore: Sam Wainman (GK), Cameron Parker-Graham, Charlie Harnett, Joe Taylor, Jacob Hanks, James Smith, George Bis (c), Jordan Watts, Connor Eley, Sam Woollidridge, James Lewis, Tom Roy, Ben Water-

house, Corbin Vaughan, Rhys Ker-shaw and Frank Keegan.

Essentially, this was a 'free' year for the Tornados. Having expected to finish playing for HTJFC as under 16s, there was enough interest for the league to agree to run an under 17 league. So there was generally less pressure on the boys to go out and win matches and more emphasis on them enjoying playing football and I think the boys all enjoyed their football this season. However, three things really conspired against us building any momentum or form – the sheer number of matches postponed in the mid-season, injuries to several players during the year that meant we only had a squad of 11 on may Saturdays (Jordan was injured at the start of the season and both George and Cameron suffered long-term injuries and missed the end of the season), and the fact

put in an immense performance in the second half.

~ The two outstanding goals scored by James Lewis and Tom Roy in our narrow 3-2 defeat by St James Eagles. James' goal was a superb left foot drive into the top corner and Tom's followed the best passing move the team has ever played – just about involving every Tornados player on the pitch!

~ Sam Woollidridge's goal in the cup match against KCA – more excellent passing ended with Sam's first time volley into the roof of the net.

~ Connor scoring our consolation goal against Iver by knocking the defender and the ball into the net.

~ George's 35-yarder, on a very snowy Hazlemere Rec pitch, against KCA that just crept in under the crossbar to give us the lead!

~ James Smith's goal in the same match that saw some great link-up play with Tom followed by James somehow vaulting over the 'keeper with the ball.

~ Cameron's "David Beckham versus Greece" performance away to Westwood Park Rangers, which saw him pop up virtually everywhere on the pitch, putting in his best all round performance of the season.

~ Jordan and Tom swapping positions (centre-back and centre-forward) away to KCA

Dynamos – that saw both outstanding performances from the two players in the second half and completely confusing the opposition.



Troopers 2010

that many of the players were spending a lot less of their free time playing football.

There were still plenty of highlights and memorable moments over the season though, such as:-

~ Jacob starting one match seemingly unable to kick the ball and ending up man of the match by the final whistle having



Tornados 2013