Chairman’s Report – Season 2013 -2014
I would describe the 2013-2014 season as one of steady progress for Raw Skills Football Club. We had some 200 boys playing football in sixteen teams across seven age groups – more members, more teams and more age groups than ever before.

The under 11 Saints won the F division in the Crowborough League, the under 11 Rangers were runners-up in Division A, and in the Tandridge League both the under 14 Rangers and under 16 Corinthians won their divisional Sportsmanship awards. A combined under 9 squad won an end-of-season tournament in which they beat teams from both Arsenal and Fulham. Equally importantly, managers in every squad reported enjoyment, enthusiasm, progress and development for the players in their charge. And the Under 16 Corinthians squad extended Raw Skills FC’s international footprint with a thoroughly enjoyable end of season trip to Jerez in southern Spain.

The Miles Warner Memorial Cup was won by Eddie Peet in recognition of his battle back to health and fitness after a long and debilitating illness, during which the desire to be back in a Raw Skills shirt was one of the things that kept him going. Eddie returned to action with the under 16 Rangers squad this season and ended up as top goalscorers. I presented the Chairman’s Award to Warren Fairchild, who has been an active figure in the club almost since its formation, managing the current under 16 Corinthians, helping other squads with coaching, and supporting the teams in which all three of his sons play.

I have undertaken to report each year on progress on the three objectives I set myself when I became chairman in March 2012, so here we are:

- **to consolidate the organisation and culture of the club to reflect the size we have now reached - making sure we have the right committee and management structure, getting parents sufficiently involved that all jobs are manageable and there is always a succession plan in place.** We decided this time last year to add two new committee roles, one for a representative of the mini-soccer age groups, and one for a Charter Development officer to ensure we have somebody ensuring we remain compliant with the requirements of our status and are taking full advantage of the benefits it offers. This is still our intention; other priorities – not all football club related – have got in the way and these decisions haven’t yet been executed, but they will be over the summer.

- **to strengthen and formalise the relationship with the Soccer School so that we are working with them to prepare children and their parents for the move to the club well in advance of the end of their time with Russ.** The big development this year has been the successful introduction of two under 8 teams, still part of the soccer school but also
taking part in the Crowborough League. This arrangement has enabled boys in this age group to combine the first-class coaching they get from Russ and his team with real match experience, something that most of them are clearly ready for and benefit from. We will be continuing with this arrangement next season.

- to find the club a permanent home in the Oxted area whilst continuing to enjoy the many benefits of our Edenbridge base in the meantime. The plans to redevelop Lifeline have hit some obstacles despite a general indication of support from Tandridge District Council. We are currently working on resolving these and I am hopeful a resolution will be found in the near future. We have got our eyes open for alternative sites in case the Lifeline project does not move ahead.

Management of the Club

Once again I will stress that we are a club whose continued success depends entirely on the willingness of those people who put in the hours to make everything run smoothly. In addition to the team managers and coaches, who are listed later in this report, we are hugely reliant on and grateful to the Committee for all the work they do. The membership of the Committee is currently:

**Chairman** - Tim Connolly
**Secretary** – Mark Thompson
**Treasurer** – Rona Leitch
**Child Protection Officer** – Elaine Fairchild
**Social / Funding / Communications** – Ian Lawson
**Website** – Steve High
**Kit** – Ruth Lyons.

The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice that the Committee has not changed in the past year. This is good in that it provides stability but on the other hand we have to be aware that if we do not get parents from the younger age groups moving in to some of these roles we will run dry in a few years’ time. On the whole the Committee consists of parents whose sons have been in the under 12 to under 16 age groups this past season, so it is important that we bring some fresh blood into the group. The two new posts I have mentioned will be one way of achieving this.

The team managers and coaches for the past season have been:
Under 16 Corinthians – Warren Fairchild, Ian Pearce
Under 16 Rangers – Rob Menham
Under 14 Rangers – Tim Connolly, Simon Crockett, Dave Chowler
Under 14 Wanderers – Dorothy Pilling, Ian Lawson
Under 12 Galaxy – Nick Sharps, Warren Linscer
Under 12 Rockets – Neil Bond
Under 12 Cosmos – Colin White, Tom Briggs
Under 11 Saints – Glen Allgood
Under 10s – Bernie Mullen, Peter Stimson
Under 9 Corinthians – Dave Chowler
Under 9 Real – Bill Naylor
Under 9 Development Squad – Stuart Lawrence, Pete Burford
Under 8 – Lara Hobday.

Thank you to Warren Linscer, who is standing down as a coach as his son Jack is moving to a new club, for all his work in his role over the past three years.

So now on to what really matters in this club: the reports of the individual teams.

Tim Connolly
6 July 2014
Under 16 Corinthians – Tandridge League B Division

A strange and somewhat frustrating season for Corinthians under 16’s!!

We started the season poorly and lost the first 6 games in a row. Then it seemed our fortunes had changed in a fairly evenly fought match at home to Surf FC in October. During the match they complained that the ball was too flat and asked me to pump it up. A few minutes later a through ball from Jed bounced higher that their keeper was expecting and went in – an assist for the manager?? We won 1-0 and then went 8 matches and 2 months undefeated before losing to eventual league winners, Purley, in a very tight game on 15th December.

After Christmas we only managed 1 victory from our 9 games – a 5-1 win against a Westerham team without a full 11 players. We were never really badly beaten and we were in many of the matches but we just didn’t seem to take our chances and conceded too many fairly soft goals. Even in the last game of the season we had champions Purley worried and led 1-0 for a long period, before conceding 2 fairly late goals to lose 2-1.

We ended the season in 7th place out of 9 teams with 14 points from our 16 matches.

Highlight of the season for me was probably coming from behind to beat Walton Casuals in the Surrey Cup at a super ground. It came on the first anniversary of the death of Corinthians Manager Miles Warner. It was a comeback of real character which would make Miles very proud!

We received the Sportmanship Award for the Tandridge League B division which is voted for by the opposition managers based on the behaviour of the players, managers and supporters of each team during the matches. This is a great credit to the whole of Corinthians for the “hard but fair” way in which we look to play.

The season culminated in a trip to Jerez in Spain which was a great success and was enjoyed by all (except Neil Raishbrook to whom I wish a speedy recovery from a broken nose – don’t ask!!)

It seems that we will continue as under 17’s next season which is a first for RAW Skills. In fact we look likely to have around 30 players and will still run 2 teams.

Warren Fairchild
Under 16 Rangers – Crowborough League B Division

Results-wise, this was a strange season for Rangers. A promising start soon turned into a bit of a nightmare as we lost 5 games in a row, conceding 28 goals and plummeting to the foot of the table. We then recovered with a couple of great results, only to slip into another poor run. The boys rallied towards the end of the season and a strong finish saw us finish eighth and stats of won 5, drawn 3, lost 10.

There were many great moments throughout the season; Eddie's last second strike to earn a draw against runaway league leaders, Crowborough, Dom's storming hat trick, Alex's string of incredible saves, the team's amazing second half performance with only 10 men against a huge Hailsham side, Jack's constant, tireless chasing and tackling at the back and last but not least Jamo's long range strike to secure us a win with virtually the last kick of the season (and the resulting team celebration!)

The team spirit has been fantastic and at times the boys have played some really nice football. I've been really proud of their attitude, commitment and the fact their heads never dropped even when we were on the receiving end of some bad luck or decisions. We go again next season with virtually the same squad and we're all really looking forward to it.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents. Whether putting up nets, helping out with lift shares, running the line or supporting and encouraging from the touchline, it's been much appreciated by me and the boys!

Rob Menham
Under 14 Rangers – Tandridge League B Division

For the second successive season. Rangers finished fourth in the Tandridge League B Division. Last year this marked a very satisfactory first year’s work in a new league. This year, with a team that has undergone a few changes but has developed both as individuals and a unit, we were left with the knowledge that with a bit more luck and a few tighter performances, we could have achieved more.

The season could hardly have got off to a more difficult start. A team that was adjusting to the loss of four players who had headed off for new leagues or new sports suffered injury after injury before September was out. By early October we were bottom of the league without a point, and out of the Tandridge League Cup. But as the injuries began to heal and the squad began to gel, things began to improve. The home match against Chislehurst was a turning point as, after surrendering a 1-0 lead to a couple of sloppy goals, the boys dug deep and won the game with two goals in the last ten minutes. This marked the start of a three-month winning streak, during which time the team climbed up the league to be in contention for the title, reached the last sixteen of the Surrey Youth Cup and pulled off two late comebacks, including a penalty shoot-out at Old Coulsdon, to reach the quarter-finals of the Tandridge Shield.

Then, after Christmas, the tide turned again. The boys were given a footballing lesson by Chipstead in the Surrey Youth Cup and then, not helped by the disruption of the wettest winter in living memory, embarked on a frustrating period in which, invariably, we couldn’t hold onto a lead and, in a run of eight games, were winning in seven of them and only went on to win one. But happily, the season ended with two encouraging and comprehensive wins to send the boys off into the summer break in good spirits.

We were very pleased, following the end of the season, to find that we had won the Sportsmanship Award for our division, a welcome mark of recognition from managers of other clubs.

The core of the Rangers squad was Ollie Raishbrook, who fought back impressively at the end of the season to overcome a loss of confidence in the early months of 2014; Tom Bentley, one of the newcomers, who brought speed and skill to the right back position; Scott Murrell, also in his first season, a pillar of strength and determination across the back; Jack Mcmenamin, our towering captain, reluctant to accept his calling as a central defender and yet so incredibly good at it; Zac Fairchild, the Parents Player of the Year, who converted from full back to centre back and used his extraordinary speed and tackling ability to great effect all season; Harvey Chowler, our Unsung Hero, solid at left back, almost unbeatable when called upon to play in goal and, for the first time ever, a goalscorer, in our opening match of the season; Charlie Crockett, who had an outstanding season in holding midfield; Toby Lyons, as quietly efficient as ever alongside him, calmness personified and with great distribution; Jay Longhurst, indefatigable on the wing and scorer of a few more goals than in the past; Ben Connolly, who fought back from a broken wrist with a couple of memorable long-range goals and the most assists in the squad; Rob Hartley, another new boy who brought power and strength to the team and on his day was almost unplayable – ask Corinthian Casuals after his
hat-trick in the Surrey Cup; Ramz Thomas, winner of the Players’ Player award in his first season and the scorer of some marvellous goals including a second-half hat-trick in our comeback of the season at Caribb; and James Fountain, who shared the Golden Boot with Ramz after another season in which he proved he could complement his eye for goal with the ability to pick out a player in a better position and provide the assist for him.

Thanks also to other boys who appeared for Rangers during the season: Charlie Naylor, Will Hardy, Ryan Staveley, Taylor James, Chris Moloney and Jack Kavanagh.

Thank you to our supporters club, the parents, for following us all over South London, putting up and taking down nets, running the line and ensuring the boys were cheered on wherever they played. And finally, thank you to Dave Chowler, Saturday coach for the under 9s and Sunday physio for the under 14s, and to Simon Crockett, who stepped into the lead coach role at the start of the season and brought a new intensity and rigour to the boys’ training, the benefits of which have become increasingly clear to see.

Tim Connolly
Under 14 Wanderers – Crowborough League B Division

We would like to thank all the team as this season saw Under 14 Wanderers developed from the last season with the increased level and frequency of training participation on Friday nights throughout the season as well as good attendance at Russ’s training on Wednesdays. This helped the team progress to reach the semi-final of the cup being beaten 1-0 by the eventual cup winners and at that time the leaders of the top division, also beating two teams from the first division. This was an extraordinary achievement for a team that has grown so much during this season and from the second division of the age group.

In terms of players, we recruited Harry Daniels, Harry Pickford and Joe Steeden from United who added strength to our midfield and Samson Shaw as our new goal keeper who grow in strength during the season. We would like to thank the boys for their tolerance with our rotation policy as we had a large squad of 17, who were available most of the time. The adaptability of the midfield players was essential with Mark Farmer, Sami Huseyin, Jack Kavanagh, Louis Kenyon, Harry Lawson and Ryan Staveley all connecting with our striker and also supported the defence. Harry Baker, Will Bland, Tom Knight, Robert Pilling and Ben Soden continued to develop, providing a much stronger defence. In the later part of the season Taylor James joined them offering valuable depth. Chris Moloney continued as the striker and was the second highest goal scorer in the league. Communication, organisation, holding positions increased this season with a much better distribution of the ball and putting into practice what they were learning in training.

The league challenged the team but we showed courage and determination scoring a total of 77 goals during the season. Our top scorer with 30 goals and the rest of the team showing they could step up when needed and score from midfield and defence. The boys maintained their positive team spirit and were very sporting, which is noted in sporting marks from the opposition, even at times when this was not returned. We scored in all matches but the semi-final of the cup and with an impressive 12-2 win in one game! The biggest challenges for this season was the rain which saw no matches played from the middle of December to end of February, prior to this we had not lost a match for 8 successive games, so many had to be re-scheduled which added pressure in fitting them in and lead to one week playing a double header on the Sunday and evening match on the Tuesday all away from home. The season ended on a high with us playing the league winners, who were our first match of the season when they beat us by a small margin, with us putting that behind us with a spectacular 4-1 win with the lads demonstrating guts, determination and great skill.

We would very much like to thank Mark Farmer and Harry Pickford for their efforts this year and over their years with the club as they move on to new ventures.

Finally we would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents for their continued support and encouragement this season, including setting up and clearing up for home matches, running the line, refereeing, lifts and getting the lads to training and matches on time. We look forward to seeing you all next season.

Ian Lawson & Dorothy Pilling
Under 12 Galaxy – Tandridge League B Division

There were high expectations of our first season in Tandridge League, buoyed by a successful’12-’13 campaign, where Galaxy finished League Champions-runners up of CDJFL. Galaxy approached ‘13 – ‘14 full of confidence following a strong pre season, beating all our local rivals.

Our first season in the Tandridge League coincided with a move from Saturday to Sunday Football resulting in the inevitable loss of our keeper who swapped the beautiful game for the odd shaped ball game.

With no regular keeper at the start it made our selections and shape challenging. In our first Tandridge League fixture against Croydon Town Youth we got a taste of what was to come. One of the main differences between the Tandridge League and the CDJFL is the size of the players. As a vertically challenged coach of 5ft 7” such as myself, I strained my neck when trying to reconcile the bearded Nigerian players face with their photo ID. “Did you drive the team bus here today? ” was my usual riposte. Despite that, we started well, playing some great football, making triangles, creating space and passing the ball through the team. This great play was soon rewarded with a goal, 1-0, against a team that echoed Mourinho thoughts on Samuel Eto’s advancing years. Croydon Town Youth knew they had to make their size and advantage count and it then became more of a physical rather than a footballing battle. We stood off Croydon and allowed them time and space to play and got punished 6-1!

Most of the players eventually learnt to manage the physical aspects of the Tandridge League and realised that when the ball is played on the floor we’re all the same size. In our return fixture, we smashed Croydon Youth 3 –0, despite the presence of their Nigerian drivers!!

Two Tandridge games in and 2 losses we then played Leatherhead ‘A’, from the Surrey Prem, in the County Cup, on some of the best and most immaculate pitches I have ever seen in Junior Football. These pitches, later, made national news - as they, like the rest of Leatherhead, were under 6ft of water! Against a top footballing team, we gave one of our best performances of the season. We played some mesmeric football, winning the tie 3-2 and proving what a good footballing side we are. Their coach reiterated ‘what a decent footballing side we were’ and we’d hear this again on several other occasions throughout the season, whatever the result. A good cup run was to follow and we finished in the last 16 of the county.

One of the other differences between the Tandridge League and CDJFL was how teams pressured the ball to deny time and space. Whilst some of the boys relished it others had to appreciate the importance of a good first touch and awareness of their teammates.

So what about the players:
1 Hedgey – Great shot stopper. Renowned for his Bruce Grobbelaar antics that put our hearts in our mouths on more than one occasion.

2 Joshua – Popular team player, reliable and dependable keeps things simple and contender for player of the year, with the most MOM.

3 Teddy – Not the fittest in the team but gives a 100% week in week out!

4 Lewis - Great organiser at the back constantly talking to his back line and midfielders, Some great goals with his head from corners.

5 Rarr (Ryan) – Goal of the season - 35 yards, top right-hand corner. If there hadn’t been a net it might still be flying.

6 Sharpy – With the most assists in the team he has always-brought shape and composure to the side when we play.

7 Hazza – He’s a cheeky chappy, happy go lucky lad, who always has a spring in his step. Second highest goal scorer with, 11Watch those turns Hazza?!

8 Woody – Best utility player in the side, he can play well anywhere.

9 Jack – Golden Boot - 17 goals and the best finisher in the Club.

10 Boo – More rabbit than Morrison’s – he can talk for all the team and even put Alan Hansen to shame!

11 Hen – Struggled at the start with TL but came good in the end, when he started to believe in himself.

12 Campbell – Struggled at the start but developed and improved as the season went on. He has the makings of a good centre back.

13 Stevie R – Great work engine covers more ground than most players on the pitch.

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<th>Drawn</th>
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*Total matches played includes friendlies but is not included in the WDL stat.

Nick Sharps
Under 12 Rockets – Crowborough League

The Rockets had a very enjoyable season coming third in the league and were joint top scorers with 63 goals in 18 matches. Our attacking style of play does leave us exposed at the back, but makes for good (nerve wracking) entertainment for parents and coach alike. In total there were over 100 goals in our 18 games.

Our training on Tuesday nights was well attended and laid the basis for our improving passing game. Indeed there were several matches where the quality of our football was a delight to watch and left the opposition chasing the ball. In general we are a small team and it is rare we will out muscle teams. Passing and movement is the key to our game.

Looking at the teams components. Olie Smith in goal is starting to grow at last which makes keeping goal a whole lot easier. Olie had a good season, making some great saves, and keeping us on our toes as he juggled the ball before finally getting it under control. We only let him out of goal once but the level of damage was too great for another outing. A word for stand in keeper Olie Acton who is very handy in goal.

The defence at Rockets are frequently under pressure facing 3 against 1 or 4 against 2 situations. Most of the time they cope and this is down to some hard work and fearless tackling. Sean and Max at fullback are improving fast in their defence skills but also supporting their wide midfielder going forward. Their positions become more important next season. Olie Acton and latterly Bondie in the central position were both strong breaking many attacks and then pushing forward. Bondie also chipped in with some memorable long distance goals that surprised the opposition.

The midfield have to work hard and there are few that work harder than Matt Staveley and Steve Rich. Supporting the attack and great defensive cover – these two never stop running. New to our team, Alfie has got great ball control and with growing confidence his passing is now becoming a key factor. Wide players Nem and Kyle open up the opposition and both scored plenty of goals with Kyle scoring 13 – some of them crucial. Alex at the top of the diamond played well spreading the ball, and linking well with the other players especially Thomas. Alex scored a hatful of goals despite his shooting!

Up front Thomas and Barnes did most of the work. Thomas was top goal scorer with a memorable hattrick against Sevenoaks. His determination and persistence surprised many defences - and me. His whole game has moved a step up this season. Barnes always has an eye for a goal, and his shooting is usually good. His 6 goals this season were important.

Next season we have a new challenge as we move up to 11 a side. Bigger pitches and bigger goals. Let’s hope we enjoy next season as much.

Neil Bond
Under 12 Cosmos – Crowborough League Division C

League Record

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The team suffered some early blows before the season had even kicked off with 5 players moving on in the summer which was a third of the whole of last season’s squad. We recruited two new players and so went with a smaller number that caused a few problems here and there with being able to field a side.

Just like last season we started the campaign slowly with some heavy and somewhat disappointing defeats in the early weeks but they were inter-mixed with some very good wins along the way. By week 6 we had established ourselves as probably the most unpredictable side in the league! We took this inconsistency right up until around Christmas time. After the turn of the year, and after countless cancellations, we started to find some decent form and in parts played some very good football. This culminated in a run to the end of the season that only saw us lose 1 of the last 7, which was a closely fought game against the side who finished 2nd in the league. The key trick for next season in this respect is to convince the boys in September that Christmas has already been and gone as we always play better after the turn of the year!

This season has been more of a challenge for the team and some damaging thumpings threatened to totally derail our campaign. But one thing this bunch has in abundance is resilience and strength of character; they’re never destroyed when we lose and actually at this level that’s the perfect mentality. So they should all be commended for that. They’re also a very good team unit, winning and losing together, which is a quality that isn’t found in every team.

Key challenge to the team for next season – to focus more at training! Training is fun, and there will always be a light-hearted feel which should be encouraged BUT the foundations of an organised and functional team are always built at training. The team’s natural enthusiasm, energy and character carries them through the matches at the moment but if this can be fused with consistent good training sessions then they will have an even more successful season in the coming campaign.

Special thanks to: the players themselves (the team wouldn’t be there without them!), the parents of the players (the team wouldn’t get to the matches without them!), my assistant Tom’s passion and energy and thanks to everyone else involved in general who contributes to this great footballing community that we’ve have. Also thanks to Luke and Adam and the fantastic Under 11s players who have helped out towards the back end of this season.

Colin White
**Under 11 Rangers – Crowborough League**

The 13/14 season has been one of huge success for the boys both in terms of results on the pitch and more importantly our development both individually and as a team which hadn't played together as one before. We trained over the summer which put us in good stead for our inaugural 9v9 season (CDJFL 'B' league) which kicked off away at Wadhurst in early September. A 4-3 win that day set us on our way.

From then on, up until Christmas (When the leagues are amended) the boys played some superb football, the highlight of which being away at Ratton Rangers in a 6-2 victory, that was one of the best displays of football we’d ever seen! The results reflected out performances and we subsequently won the Pre-Christmas 'B' division and were promoted to the 'A' - a great achievement already!

Post Christmas we had to improve, and we did so. The dedication shown through the awful conditions was unquestionable and we set about battling it out with the best teams in the area. We started well, beating a good Foresters team after the long break, followed by another superb 3-1 win away at Tonbridge Juniors who were the team to beat pre-Christmas. We were playing some great football and soon realised that ourselves and old rivals Chipstead would likely meet for a play off game for the title, but not before the most dramatic of matches was witnessed at Edenbridge when we overcame Rusthall in the last 5 minutes! In the end, it did come down to that one game against Chipstead to decide the A league title. Unfortunately we came up short on the day and Chipstead deserved their 3-1 win after we’d gone 1-0 up. But runners up was a fantastic achievement which the Rangers family were all very proud of.

A truly memorable season in which everyone played their part. Far too many highlights to list them all but just to add a huge well done to the boys, and a thanks from us for the dedication and effort shown through a turbulent season.

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*Adam Law & Luke Mitchell*
**Under 11 Rovers**

Saints started the pre-Christmas league rather inauspiciously. Three back to back defeats, including a 2-3 reverse in our first encounter of the year with Tonbridge Junior Tempest gave some cause for concern although two of the losses were rather unfortunate. However, two subsequent draws gave cause for some renewed optimism and the team were beginning to get used to 9-a-side and starting to gel. Harry Bryant was particularly strong early season and a man of the match performance helped the team secure their first win of the season, 3-0, against Tonbridge Forresters. The team continued to build on this success and in most games were the stronger side, albeit struggling to finish at one end and shipping in some silly goals at the other end. This resulted in two losses in the final 2 games before Christmas, both of which should have been won.

The post-Christmas league saw a reinvigorated Saints team really starting to believe in themselves and it was a real shame that the weather disrupted some many fixtures. Despite this Saints won all their league games bar one, a heavy defeat to a strong Langton Green side, and progressed into the season ending play-offs after securing second place in the regular league. At last our neat build up play was turning into goals and Tom Merritt and Jack Underwood in particular were finding their scoring boots.

We found ourselves in an even looking play-off final against Tonbridge Junior Tempest, whom we had played 3 times previously in the season, winning one, losing one and drawing the other. In the end it was really no contest, the 2-1 final score not really doing us justice. Jaiden Lawrence was majestic in midfield, Luke Woolard was superb in goal and marshalled the defence brilliantly and a Jack Underwood double secured a convincing win. Cue wild celebrations to end a fantastic season with Saints really coming together as a team and making real progress as individual footballers.

**Squad**

Woolard(capt.), Bochard, Allgood, Bryant, Fairchild, Louden, Williams, Schifano, Baynham, Lawrence, Deans, Shalless, Green, Merritt, Underwood, Mehre

**Glen Allgood**
Under 10s – Crowborough Mini League


After some excellent results at U9, we were placed in the top division for the final season of competitive football at U10 in the Crowborough League. This meant we were competing with the top teams of the bigger clubs in the league. The first few weeks of the season were quite tricky as we tried to assimilate a number of new players with quite a number of boys missing as a result of school commitments. The season was really summed up by our games with Sevenoaks Town. We played them in the first game of the season and were beaten quite resoundingly. At half time in the reverse fixture, late on in the season, we were 0-3 down. However a totally dominant second half performance turned the game around and we won 4-3. This showed the improvement over the season. We were much more competitive in the second half of the season and played some really entertaining football.

Teamwork and team spirit were on show in abundance, making it great fun to coach and manage the teams. We’re looking forward to the step up to 9v9 next year, confident that the boys are ready for the challenge.

Bernie Mullen & Peter Stimson
Under 9 Corinthians

Well done to all the boys, a fantastic first year!

We played 20 games in total, won 15, drew 2 and only lost 3 matches. Over 90 goals were scored and only 14 goals got passed us.

THE TEAM

Josh Hever  
Great goal keeping, some of the best saves you will ever see.

Sam Hartley  
The Captain – hard tackling and will play all over the pitch, played in goal, midfield and defence.

Oscar Powney  
A fantastic machine for all over the pitch with an eye for a goal.

Kian  
Great play down the wings and passing into the box – a real team player.

Ben Ampstead  
What a machine, runs all over the pitch and great down the wings.

Reece Hussain  
Well done lots of goals and turned a game on its head on his own.

Joseph McCusker  
In the Dennis Bergkamp role! Great vision and strong on the ball with plenty of goals and assists.

Seb Bentley  
Works so hard, plays down the wing and is fantastic at the back with strong tackling.

Max Chowler  
So fast and a great striker always looks for scoring goals and assists, fantastic down the wing.

Harry Pluck  
A great ball winner and so solid at the back in defence.

I am so proud of all my team and looking forward to next season to step up even further and form even more of a dream team!

David Chowler
**Under 9 Real**

This season has been a fantastic one for the boys who made up Raw Skills Real U-9. They have improved in all areas, and are starting to play a really high quality passing game that has had lots of positive comments from opposition coaches. We have won most of our games, and scored some great team and individual goals. It’s been great fun coaching them, and watching their triumphs and disappointments, all an essential part of making them better players and people. Thanks to all the parents for getting the team to right location, and their support on the touchline. The squad was:

Adam – Always turns up with a smile, and has shown much improvement in his shot stopping and handling skills. Made some crucial saves that have helped us win games.

Felix- Plenty of pace and skill, with a shot that would test any goal keeper. Scored plenty of spectacular goals, as well as creating with his crosses.

Freddie L- King of the drag back, he has had a great season creating chances with his eye for a great pass. Has introduced defensive ability into his game, and always happy to do whatever the team needs.

Freddie B- A rock at the back with plenty of composure on the ball, strength and pace. Started to add goals to his game in second half of the season, reads the game well.

James H- A sweet left foot with a powerful shot, and a delicate touch. Scored some great goals, and was usually to be found surging of the left wing, as well as working hard to get back defensively.

James L- Moved to the squad mid season, and gave some strong performances in defence. Tenacious, strong, and increasingly creative.

Jonny- Has scored plenty of goals, and works hard for the team. Strong passing ability, and the pace to cause panic in defenders.

Matty- The only player to be injured in a goal celebration after scoring a valuable winner. Strong in the tackle, good passing ability, and an eye for goal.

Oliver- A strong creative player, with great passing ability when team mates make a run. Enjoyed the goals he scored, and those he created.

Raff- Biggest smile in the team when he scores, and he enjoyed a few smiles. Always works hard, and a strong will to win.

I am looking forward to seeing what next season will bring, and the heights Real can reach as they become Raw Skills Real U-10.

Bill Naylor
Under 9 Development Team

The development team started the season with a mix of abilities and varying degrees of confidence on the ball. However, straight from the outset it was clear that the lads were well motivated and keen to learn. They also seemed to get on extremely well together from the start.

Whilst we struggled at the beginning, with a number of challenging results, the attitude of the lads has been fantastic and they have played with a desire that has grown exponentially.

Through hard work and a greater understand of the lads’ best positions and skills the team has developed into a cohesive force with a deeper awareness of the game of football.

Despite having our fair share of defeats, the season ended on a real high with an incredible result in the tournament in Speldhurst where we were narrowly pipped at the post for the overall win. The lads played incredible football and won four out of their five games in convincing style.

The team has made incredible advances and I hope will be a force to be reckoned with next season. Our progress has also been enhanced by the support of the parents and in particular from Pete Burford who as co-manager has made a huge difference.

Finally, I’d like to thank the lads for their commitment and attitude as they’ve demonstrated the attributes we cherish in Raw Skills in abundance.

It’s been a real pleasure to have managed the team this season and I look forward to building on our solid foundations going forward.

Stuart Lawrence
Under 8s

Raw Skills City


Raw Skills United

League Record: P:20 W:15 D:3 L:2 F:74 A:13

Squad: Henry Marshall, Zac McCrory, Zack Policky, Zac Hammerton, Raphi Simmons-Dance, Fraser Endersby, Jamie Hobday, Frankie Fisher, Freddie Eels, Max Ejje, Dominic Smith, Finlay Stables, Freddie Forkan, Isaac Canham, Archie Walters, Derek Humphries, Jake Neaves, Liam Maloney, Dan Brown,

Managers: Various!

Season Review:

This was the first time that Raw Skills had entered teams in the under 8 age group, so the season was approached with mixed feelings of trepidation and excitement.

The results from the first games highlighted the boy’s inexperience of playing at this level. However, having initially suffering two losses, the boys showed an immediate improvement in organisation and technique to secure two draws in the second games.

From this point onwards, the lads took to the matches like ducks to water and we witnessed a surge in confidence as the weeks progressed.

During the early weeks of the season the two squads were chopped and changed to allow for absences but the teams soon settled into two established groups.

Barring a couple of blips the results were excellent, but more importantly, at times the style and quality of football being played belied the age of those playing it.

Highlights of the season for City were a 4-0 win against Rusthall Raiders, a 6-0/5-0 double against Rotherfield Lions/Tigers and a 5-0 win against Sevenoaks Town.

Highlights of the season for United were a 9-0 win against Tonbridge Buccaneers, a 6-0/5-0 double against Rotherfield Lions/Tigers and an 8-1 win against Sevenoaks Town.

On more than one occasion, the opposition management were full of praise not just for the devastating performances of the Rawskills teams but also the sporting manner in which they were delivered.

The boys have loved their first experience of league football and we are all looking forward to next season.
Thanks as always goes to Russ and his team for their coaching and for lending us a number of their guys to referee our games. Thanks also to all the parents for their unwavering support over the course of the season.

Lara Hobday