



**CENTRAL AJAX**

**TEAM**

**TALK**

**May  
2004**

**Special Presentation Evening Edition  
The Official magazine of Central Ajax**

Central Ajax has experienced many successes this year, with teams winning trophies, players being spotted by academies, ex-players playing professional footballer and the continued development of our club's grounds. We aim to provide facilities that are first class to allow players to develop that skill. Many different attributes are needed in football today from strength to speed to skill but the one quality everyone looks for in a successful footballer is attitude. Learning this as a footballer enables players to give extra effort when things are not going well, to hang on when defending a small lead and not to react to bad tackles when provoked. Like many things this is a great attribute to take back into school and work life and will prepare young people for the life ahead. It is no coincidence that young people who play sport are less likely to get involved in the problem areas of society today. I wish you well for tonight and for a successful new season.

**Club Player of the Year - Roy Dirienzo Memorial Trophy**

**WINNER – BEN LANGLEY**

This player is a natural leader and commands the defence whenever he plays. He loves playing the game whether at training or in matches. He not only played for the successful Under 16's this season but has been a regular for the Senior Saturday side. This was a big step up for a 15 year old but he took it in his stride and even captained the side for one game. He is the regular captain of the under 16's and has demonstrated a maturity in his play and his attitude.

Other Nominations: Matthew Wells, Tom Duxbury, Mark Goor, Danny Jenkins

**Most Improved Team - Don Hemmingway Trophy**

**WINNER – UNDER 10'S JUNIORS – TIM JONES**

This was a very close contest between the two nominees. This team was close to folding when the manager left at the end of last season. Having won no games and gaining only one point. Two people stepped forward to run the team with enthusiasm and the players responded with determination and improving skills. They were ecstatic when they won their first game at the start of the season and had a respectable mid-table finish with seventeen points. I wish them well for next season when they start 11-a-sides.

Other Nominations: Under 16's

**Honorary Vice-President**

**JOHN STEVENS**

This person has been one of the stalwarts of the club over many, many years. Having managed successful teams from very young to adult he has won trophies and gained promotion at all levels. But he has probably done more outside of team management for the club than anyone else. When we first bought the grounds I remember him as our grounds co-ordinator, fixing tractors and mowers, mowing, organising seed and fertiliser. As we came closer to building the clubhouse he was relentless in using his skills in planning the building, project managing it as it went up and lately planning and in most parts personally building the insides. He has taken days off for the cause and worked long into the night. He thoroughly deserves the award.

## Secretary's Cup

### WINNER – JOHN STEVENS

This award goes to someone who is Ajax through and through. This year he has organised the finishing of the clubhouse and done a lot of the work himself. He has ensured we meet all sorts of regulations from fire to health and safety. The clubhouse is now a functional building that is of course used for changing but is now equipped to take most medium size events and is a great hub for our six-a-side tournaments. This has meant working many days for the club and for that we should reap the benefit over many years.

## Parent of the Year

### WINNER – JAMIE MORRIS

This person has been with the club a long time and I hope for a while longer. In the past he has taken on duties when no one else would volunteer but this year he has not only run a successful team but served on the Executive Committee of the Club and, more importantly, has given up his time to fix tractors, saving the club valuable money, and done some work on the clubhouse. He never creates a fuss but gets on with the job in hand.

## Under 7's

The under 7's have spent their first season learning skills, and it is apparent the squad has a good mixture of defensive and flair players. A vast improvement can be seen and the boys are at the stage where they need to experience match situations, they are due to appear in local 6-a-side competitions.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – BEN SCANDRETT**

He has been given this award as his skills have noticeably improved, and he is learning the art of being a defender.

### **TEAM PLAYER – ALEX MILLS**

This player demonstrates great enthusiasm, he works hard for his team in training and shows great determination in his tackling and shooting.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER – CALLUM INGRAM**

Selected by his team mates and friends, he consistently maintains high levels when training, and again has shown great improvement with his all round game and awareness.

## Under 8's

We have seen the squad develop over the season with the first half spent on training and the second half on friendly matches. In these matches we have seen some great team play, the boys working extremely hard for each other, and improving in their positional sense – well done to all the boys.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – RYAN BAGHRIA**

- Most players have improved throughout the season but this player has developed in confidence in every game. He is a hard tackling and thoughtful player who has improved in his overall ability and learnt the skills of being a defender.

### **TEAM PLAYER – CIARAN HOUSTON**

- This player never stops running with a typical end to end 100% performance in each game. He is totally committed to the team with strong tackling, good positional sense and the odd goal.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER – CONNOR BEALE**

- This was a closely contested award this year, but deservedly goes to an extremely hardworking and talented player who was moved up from midfield to striker this season. He has a great attitude and team player with a great shot with either foot.

## Under 9's Colts

We have had a successful year. All of the boys have worked very hard on their technical skills and team play. The attitude and team spirit in training and during matches amongst the whole squad has been exceptional for boys of this age. In the league the team were pushed all the way by the Ajax Juniors and Southam United, but secured the title on the last day of the season. I would like to thank a host of dedicated coaches and helpers for their contributions this season, without which the boys' success on the field would not have been possible.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – EDWARD SMITH**

This award was very closely contested, with a number of the players being really deserving of the award. The winner only joined us in the closed season, having never played competitive football before. He has made remarkable progress this year, becoming a team regular in defence or midfield.

### **TEAM PLAYER – SHAUN ELLIS**

The winner of this award has played in every game this season, performing to a consistently high standard. He is a very unselfish player, whose main contribution has been to work hard in midfield, creating chances for his team – mates.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER – DANNY SCAPENS-FELOY**

This award goes to a quiet and unassuming lad, whose talent is immediately obvious to everyone who sees him play. He has scored some vital goals this season, 19 in all, and is very popular with his team - mates.

## Under 9's Juniors

A cracking first season with only two league defeats by the odd goal and a semi-final defeat on penalties. The philosophy of providing all of the players with an equal opportunity to develop has reaped its rewards, highlighted by the facts that all but one of the squad has scored and four players have scored over 13 goals each. The players have been a credit to all, but particularly their parents whose help throughout the season has been greatly appreciated

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – CHARLIE BERESFORD**

In a season where all the players have improved immeasurably this particularly player has without doubt been the find of the season. His dogged defensive work and 'man-marking' style has annoyed many a good striker this season. He has combined this with his improved passing and reading of the game.

### **TEAM PLAYER – LUKE SWINSON**

This player has been one of the most consistent player's this season. He has rarely put a foot wrong and by continually working on his game he has proved to be one of the best players in the league in his position. He is strong and brave and although at times during games he has not been fully occupied he continues to be focused and provides the team with an excellent foundation from which to build.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER – TOM ATKINS**

A clear choice by his fellow players this player with his busy style is both skilful and a tough tackler. He is passionate about his game and by agreeing to switch to a position he does not greatly enjoy has provided a sound basis for the team during the second half of the season.

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS

These awards are usually given for ten years continuous service to the club which means serving from 7 to 17 years of age or moving into the adult side. We have four awards to give this year.

**Danny Jenkins**

**Jamie Lee**

**James Lockyer**

**Martin Gittins**

## Under 10's Juniors

You could not ask for a better bunch of lads, they always give 100% and never give up. The team spirit and sportsmanship are excellent. They have also enjoyed a bit of success along the way, of which they deserve every minute.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – DUNCAN MACLACHLAN**

This was a hard choice but this player has shown great improvement in defence, using his head and feet and getting stuck in to clear the ball.

### **TEAM PLAYER – GEORGE PERRY**

This player has also had a good season, he just runs, tackles and runs again. He is 100% committed and always on the team list.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER – TOM PARSONS**

This player has had a great season, he has got better in every game and fully deserves this award.

## Under 12's

Thanks to all boys and parents for their support. Although we started with a stronger squad than last year, we suffered after Christmas with loss of players. Although we reached the cup semi-finals we were unfortunately relegated. We now have some new players and look to bounce back next year.

**IMPROVED PLAYER – JOSHUA KELSEY** Having been with us since we started, this player has shown great commitment to improve his game and has been ever present in the side this year. This has been his best season to date.

**TEAM PLAYER – GURDEEP KALSI** His first season with us and he has developed to be a very valuable member of the team at the heart of defence. He learned very quickly and is now looking to play in other positions.

**MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER – ROBBIE NESTORENKO** This boy shows enormous enthusiasm and desire to win. He has made his position his own and has been ever present, consistently putting in good performances. Very versatile, he is looking to play in other positions next season.

**PLAYERS' PLAYER – MATTHEW JARVIS CLEAVER** This boy's first season with us he has proved to be a very dependable, committed, popular and enthusiastic member of the team. He had a great season in defence and we are sorry he has decided to follow other pursuits next season.

## Under 13's Colts

The Colts started the season under new management, with a number of new players & in a new league, A reliance on key individuals has been replaced by improved all round team performance. The standard of football within the league has been good & we will finish the season in around 6th place.

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER – HARRY STERN** - This player has established himself as a regular in the starting line up, he works hard and his confidence on the ball have grown thorough out the season.

**TEAM PLAYER – HENRY LEAVER** This award may seem a strange choice to the manager. He is one of the leading goal scorers with over 20 goals this season, a player who can score from anywhere on the pitch. He deserves this award for having to put up with the manager moaning before, during & after the match.

**MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - SIMON SWINSON** - His performances this season have been of the highest order, whether its taking free kicks, chasing back to make important tackles, coming forward to score goals or clearing balls out of defence he has maintained this high standard all season.

**PLAYERS' PLAYER – SIMON SWINSON** This player has had an excellent season and could have been nominated for all of the awards. He is quick, strong & can score from anywhere, not bad for a defender.

## Under 13's Juniors

We have had a difficult season being short of players for most matches, but managed to finish mid table But the players we have, have for most of the time worked hard and showed commitment and worked hard.

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - DARREN MEADS** - This player has come on in leaps and bounds through the season after coming to us as his first proper team. He will tackle well, play as part of the team and even manages to score a goal.

**TEAM PLAYER - TOM BILLINGTON** - An all round player he started the season up front and scored a hat-trick in both of the first two games, since then he has played in midfield and defence and will give 110% wherever.

**MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - ALEX PEAKE** - This defender is a rock at the back and I have lost count of crucial tackles he has put in at the last minute, a very strong and well timed player.

**PLAYERS' PLAYER RUSSELL PARTRIDGE** - This player has scored the most goals this season but is also captain and is a good calming leader. He always wants to win and works very hard both in training and match situations.

## Under 14's Colts

The mass exodus of players at the end of last season caused concern about the teams ability to perform at the level at which we play. The players that have joined this season have, without exception, improved the team and we are set for our highest league finish ever, well done to all the boys.

**MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - KARL WARDZYNSKI** - Many parents have approached me to insist that he is worthy of this award, so who am I to argue. He will be greatly missed next season as he takes up a 2 year contract at Aston Villa.

**TEAM PLAYER - CRAIG ELLARD** - This player in a great contributor to the team, one match making saves at one end and the next scoring at the other. Always first to training and an example to all others.

**MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - JACK STEDMAN** - This award is voted for by the parents and this year has gone to a player who joined us last season. A quiet player who stands up to the most extreme provocation with calm but strong resolve a defender with great strength both physical and mental.

**PLAYERS' PLAYER - DAVID ARMS** This goes to a player who joined us at the beginning of the season, and settled in very quickly. He has developed into the pivot of the side with most of our better play coming through him; he is also one who takes his defensive midfield duties seriously.

## Under 14's Juniors

After a slow start, the team have steadily improved through the season, and the football played has been very entertaining to watch. We are a solid top half of the table side, and will be looking to compete for honours next season.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - LEE MORRIS**

He has improved steadily throughout the season, playing in many positions, and scoring a couple of goals along the way. His strength in holding the ball, and setting up chances for his team mates, has proved decisive in recent games.

### **TEAM PLAYER - LORI SWINDELLS**

This player never complains, despite being asked to play in virtually every position. He has finished the season playing as our goalkeeper, and has deserved recent man of the match awards for very strong performances.

### **MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER CHRIS KIRBY -**

It seems only one player springs to everyone's mind for this award. He never pulls out of tackles, runs a marathon every game, and never has a bad match.

### **PLAYERS PLAYER - GUS SAMRA**

He is always positive, always smiling, always 100% committed to the team, and has the accolade of being the loudest player on the pitch. He has respect from his team mates, and thoroughly deserves this award.

## Under 15's Colts

The team has had a very mixed season this year. We started off short of players, and suffered 4 defeats in our first 5 games. Then with a little change and a couple of new players we won 5 consecutive games. Unfortunately we have not played as well as we could have and finished the season mid table. However we have had success in the League Cup, finishing runners-up.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - MARK GOOR**

This decision has been made with the assistance of some parents. He has developed into a very dependable player, gaining confidence in every game determined in the tackle and never giving up on what some would call a lost cause.

**TEAM PLAYER - STEVEN ASPINAL** The player that has won this award is always giving 100% +, his energy and enthusiasm for the game is great. Whenever anything goes against him, he gets on with the game and doesn't complain about decisions.

**MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - CONRAD LEWIS** The winner of this award has come back to full fitness, and is really enjoying his football again. He has played in a couple of different positions, and is a very capable player. It is great to have him back to his former self.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER - MATTHEW WELLS -**

This player has progressed in both talent and maturity. He is a great lad to have in the team, leading by example in almost every game, and he is this year's captain. Winner for the second year in a row

## Under 15's Juniors

The Juniors were unexpectedly promoted to Division 1 this season, but were not really ready for the higher standard of football. However, they have all acquitted themselves well, showing a lot of spirit and determination, and continue to be a credit to the Club culminating with winning the leagues Sporting award.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - CARL SMEDLEY**

This player joined the squad at the beginning of the season and gave the impression of being rather hesitant and unsure of himself. However, as the season progressed, his confidence grew, and he has proved to be a real asset in defence.

**TEAM PLAYER - DALJEET JOHAL** A close contender for the most consistent player award, this boy has had his best year with the squad since joining the team five seasons ago. His ball skills and determination to succeed more than make up for his being the smallest member of the team, and his fellow players have recognised these abilities by voting him the team player of the year.

### **MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - LEWIS ROGERS**

Two players were in line for this award, and the choice was not an easy one. Both are long-standing members of the team, and both have had excellent seasons. The winner has made an outstanding effort in every game, in what has proved to be a very difficult season. Without his effort and enthusiasm in each game the scores against us would have been considerably higher.

### **PLAYERS PLAYER- CARL SMEDLEY**

A very close vote for this award this year. The winners grit and determination have earned him the respect of his fellow team-mates. Having started the season in a very quiet and unobtrusive way, his confidence increased with each game until he became an invaluable member of the squad.

## Under 16's

A successful campaign in the Mid-Warwickshire Division 1, losing only 4 games this season in all competitions. We were runners up in the League Cup to Norton Lindsey and also drew the League title eventually losing in a play off. All of the players deserve congratulations for their hard work and commitment during the season and we wish them all luck as they go their separate ways.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - IAN MORRIS**

- Most improved player goes to a player whose steady improvement and fine performances have helped us enjoy the successful season that we've had. Playing in that thankless position - goalkeeper

### **TEAM PLAYER - SAM BICKNELL**

This goes to a player whose whole attitude to football and the manner in which he conducts himself is second to none. Having played in several positions this season although mainly in defence he is a player who has performed well everywhere I've asked him to play.

### **MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER -**

**MICHAEL ELLIS** - This award goes to the real workhorse of the team. His constantly high workrate and ball winning in the heart of midfield have given us a solid platform on which to build. A thoroughly deserved award

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER - DANNY JENKINS**

- This award goes to a player whose very presence on the field inspires all of his team mates. He constantly gives 100% in areas of the pitch and not only scores goals but creates them as well. Players player again !!

## Youth Team

A strong contingent from last seasons U-16's combined with a nucleus from last years Youth team and a few new signings yielded a well balanced squad to start the season. The team grew in confidence and stature throughout the season. Beaten quarter-finalists in the BCFA Youth Cup and an extra-time Coventry Youth Cup semi-final exit were balanced by a runners-up spot in the league.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - CHARLES WALE**

- He's probably the biggest but definitely the best and great fun to have around despite his unnatural interest in team accounting practices. The Fridge has an incredible 100% success rate in stopping penalties this season, Please rise for the Magnificent...

### **TEAM PLAYER - GARY MORRIS**

- Made a fantastic contribution to the team giving us balance, creativity and variety in midfield. With the ability to pick the right pass at the right time, a genuine match winner. Introducing the one and only...

### **MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - DANIEL NASH**

- reading of the game, positioning and bravery are the key qualities this young man demonstrates on a weekly basis. Never flustered, he is a steadying influence on those around him. Hat's off for the unflappable...

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER - CHRIS COLLIER**

Fending off a late challenge from the team captain, this award goes to a superb athlete and a model team player. Despite claiming to hate playing there, "Hollywood" has had a faultless season and been a rock at the heart of a solid defensive unit. Take a bow.

## Senior Team

As any Wolves fan will tell you when your lucks out, its out for two thirds of the season. We were a match for any team in the division but lacking a prolific goal scorer we failed to capitalise when we had the upper hand and for the final third we lacked confidence and fitness. All these can and will be sorted closed season with some hard work and good coaching.

### **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER - NICK O'CONNELL**

- This player spent last season on the bench as a stand in striker but this season he has been a first choice defender in nearly every game. He always gives 100% and quite rightly expects the same from his teammates.

### **TEAM PLAYER - PAUL LANGLEY**

- No problem choosing this one it goes to our oldest swinger and our fittest player, our reserve substitute father of our youngest player.

### **MOST CONSISTENT PLAYER - NEIL PEGLER**

- This trophy could have gone to either Dom White or Nick O'Connell however this award goes to our goalkeeper. Some of the saves he has made this season have been outstanding especially towards the latter part when we have been somewhat under the cosh.

### **PLAYERS' PLAYER - DAVE BRIGGS**

- A close run thing this year with Nick O'Connell and Dave Winnington in close contention but once again this player deservedly takes the trophy and hopefully he will be here next season to try and win it again. Definitely our best outfield player this season.