

<http://www.dartfordfc.co.uk/reserves.htm>

Henno's Notes

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It would be fair to say that following the success of last years reserve team, it was always going to be a hard act to follow. Having only retained four players from last season, and then to have lost my newly appointed captain Luke May after only one game, has meant that the first few weeks have certainly been tough. However, having looked at what feels like hundreds of players during the summer, I now feel that the current squad are reaching the level and standards required to support and compete for first team opportunities as and when they come.

The biggest difficulty is trying to have a balance between giving young players opportunities, while at the same time having experience and knowledge of how to deal with opponents who are quite happy to put young talent into row Z. This year more young players will be given that opportunity, as was the case last week when two seventeen year olds and one sixteen year old from Andy's under eighteen team played and did very well at Lordswood, a game we won 3- 2. This followed a 1- 1 draw the previous Saturday at home to Maidstone, a result I was especially pleased with as their team was most of the players who we had played last year and were as a result, very strong opponents.

Therefore in summary, I am optimistic that the reserve team will this season progress the young talent currently within the club, and if by giving players that opportunity means that we are maybe not as successful in terms of results as we were last year, I think that this year's success will be measured in many other ways.

Your support towards me and the players since I have been manager has been fantastic and I am most grateful to you all, we all appreciate it and I hope to see as many of you as possible at our games, subject to first team commitments of course.

Best Wishes

Henno