



END OF SEASON NEWSLETTER 2022-23

As we look forward to the start of a new season, we reflect on some of last season's highlights. Season 2022-23, RISERS entered a whopping 28 teams, for ages 7 up to 16 years, including 4 girl teams and over 400 registered players, across 5 leagues and new for 2022, we ran Squad Girls, a non competitive football programme for girls aged 12-14.

It was another fantastic season, bursting with so many amazing achievements, on and off the pitch. We want to thank you for your continued support and we are extremely thankful to our dedicated coaching team, and our club officials and volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure players and families are safe in our football environments whilst having fun and celebrating successes.

Last season we proudly supported Kent FA initiatives such as Play Safe and the Silent Weekends and will continue to do so next season. We'll also be taking part in a new initiative, Kent Green United; committing to making a positive difference to our local environment with simple ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle. If you're interested in joining our Green Squad, please get in touch!

In March, we were extremely proud to have successfully completed our England Football Accreditation renewal for 2022-23, and was recognised as a 3 star accredited club. This is a brilliant achievement and reflects the club's growth over the past 18 months and our volunteers ongoing commitment to providing football to the highest standard.

A personal highlight for me was being awarded Kent FA's Digital Club of the Year. We were delighted to be recognised for our creativity across the club's socials, website and newsletters, building a loyal community of support. Thank you for sharing your photos, videos and match reports and for all your likes, shares and comments online, you make our digital channels a brighter place! Keep 'em coming next season.

The new season will see our Risers family reduce to 20 teams, from ages 7 up to 16 years, as our Kent Youth League teams join neighbouring senior clubs to continue their development. We wish all those leaving Rising Stars all the very best for the future and we hope you remember your time at Risers as fondly as we do.

We're excited for the new season, planning is near complete with player registrations submitted to the leagues, training and match venues booked and new kits ordered. Well done team. GO RISERS!

Jenny Hancock, Club Secretary

www.risingstarsyouthfc.com @risingstarskitbag

WE'RE BACKING PLAY SAFE



In partnership with
NSPCC

**Let them play.
Let them lead.
Let them learn.**

Silent Support Weekend is the chance for young players to find their voice and make their own decisions on the pitch this time guided by their coach. Help us by turning the noise down on the side line to see the players step up.



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL





RISERS ROLL OF HONOUR



Rising Stars Youth FC - Kent FA Digital Club of the Year award, sponsored by Sleeping Giant Media

U7 Yellow - Cup Winners at the Herne Bay FC Tournament

U7 Blue - Plate Winners at the Baypoint Tournament

U8 Yellow - FDYFL Tournament Finalists, hosted by Ramsgate

U8 White - Cup Winners at the Sturry Kings tournament

U9 Yellow - UEFA Cup Winners at the Herne Bay FC Tournament and Runners Up at the ADFA Tournament

U10 Girls - Shield Winners at the Cuxton Tournament

U10 Yellow - Cup Champion Winners at the Herne Bay FC Tournament and Cup Finalists at the Baypoint Tournament

U11 White - Shield Winners at the Baypoint Tournament

U12 Blue - Runners Up at the ADFA Tournament

U12 Girls - Lottie awarded Player of the Season at the KGLFL Presentation Awards

U12 Yellow - Runners up at the Hawkinge Tournament

U13 Blue - EKYFL Div 2 League Winners and Runners Up at the ADFA Tournament

U13 White - FDYFL Under 13 Cup Final Winners and U13 Div 1 FDYFL Runners Up

U15 Girls - Angelica awarded Player of the Season at the KGLFL presentation awards

U15 Yellow - U15 Div 1 EDYFL Runners Up

U15 Blue - U15 Pacific Division ADYFL League Runners Up





LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

With 28 teams playing football matches across Kent each Saturday and Sunday this season, the RISERS were well represented and gained a lot of respect for our conduct on and off the pitch. We've never had so many boys and girls playing for the RISERS in the club's history, with more training sessions and matches being planned than ever before by our amazing team of volunteers. I am so proud when I see our RISERS in their yellow and blue kits throughout the week at training or during the weekend at matches and in the summer tournaments.



I want to thank our Executive and Full Committee Members for all that they do behind the scenes that enable our teams to play and train each week in safe environments, and our coaches who coach in the right manner and focus on developing people not just footballers. Our presence on social media has been unrivalled and has led to recognition through being awarded **Kent FA Digital Club of the Year!**

Our commitment to have qualified referees at every home match has seen us book more referees than ever before and our partnerships with venues has increased and improved throughout the season. So, how can we improve on all of this next season? Well, we need more of you, our RISERS members to step forward and help our committee with various admin tasks, sponsorship and grants expertise and ideas, referees recruitment, and sustainability planning for the club linked to finding long-term solutions to facilities.

The club has seen a boom in players joining and we need a few more parents/carers to step forward and help our committee take forward and implement our development plan, club philosophy and overall structure that makes the RISERS such an amazing club to be a part of.

This summer is a time to say goodbye to some of our teams for the coming season, as they are progressing their future football pathway with some of our neighbouring senior clubs. Our U13 Yellows will be representing Whitstable Town FC U14 in the Kent Youth League next season and our U15 Yellows will be doing the same at U16. Players from our U12 Yellow team will be representing Faversham Town, Whitstable Town, Herne Bay and Ramsgate at U13s in the Kent Youth League. Our U12 Blue coach Simon Allen and his brother Paul Allen, are leading Faversham Towns U13s in the Kent Youth League next season, and a majority of our U14 Yellow team will be representing Herne Bay FC U15s in the Kent Youth League. We wish all of our coaches, parents and players all the best in their next football chapter, remember once a RISER always a RISER!

Next season sees the club approach its tenth anniversary having been formed in 2014 with just two teams. RISERS continue to provide boys and girls with their first venture into youth football and beyond, and next season will see the club partnering with some new venues to enable all of this to happen. We will be playing home matches at the Canterbury Academy, Simon Langton School for Boys, The Abbey School in Faversham, and St John's School in Canterbury on a regular basis.

I would also encourage club members with a passion for getting girls into football to contact me to help increase these opportunities at RISERS. We have previously run a Wildcats Centre and have funding to run Squad Girls, so if you are able to help us reignite these opportunities then please contact me or another member of the committee!

I would like to end by thanking all of you who have come forward and shared your experiences (positive and negative) while being a RISER. Honest feedback really does help to shape our club as we aim to continually develop. I will be reviewing and updating our Club Philosophy before the start of next season (September 2023) to ensure that we provide the best child-centred approach to football provision that is possible and if you have any input or ideas about this, again please let me or a member of the committee know. Remember, **Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM). GO RISERS!**

Anthony Sands, Chairman



MEMBER SURVEY FEEDBACK

In March, we sent out our first ever member survey to every member of Rising Stars Youth FC. The aim was to get feedback about the season, the running of the club and any ideas of areas we can improve in order to provide the best footballing opportunities. In total we had 212 responses which was a 65% response rate. These were some of the wonderful quotes we got back:



Some of the constructive comments we received were around facilities and this is something the club takes seriously and is working very hard to improve, there will be some new matchday grounds next season and we continue to work towards a Risers Home Ground in the future.

There was also some concerns about communication so as a Risers Committee we are reiterating the importance of the use of Spond for all club communication and are supporting the coaches to make sure all parents/guardians are informed in a timely manner.

We will continue to carry out this survey at the end of each season but if you ever have any comments throughout the season, the Risers Committee are more than happy to hear from you.



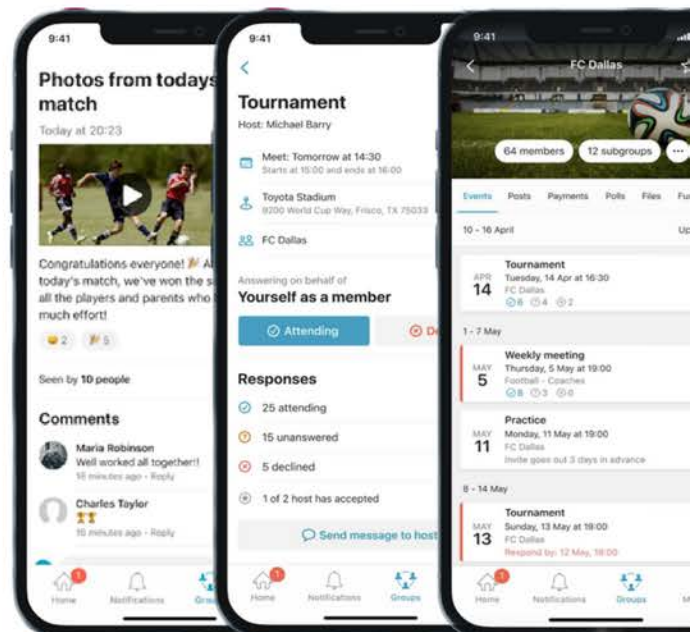
JOIN OUR CLUB MANAGEMENT APP

If you're new to the club, please join our club management app, Spond, available to download on Mobile, Tablet or accessible via a web browser. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Spond is the best solution for organising sports teams, social groups and group activities.

For past members, we urge you to review your personal details on Spond and update accordingly. Alternatively, sign up via the link above if you haven't done so already.

We will ensure that you are assigned to the correct team(s) prior to the season starting. You will need to use Spond regularly to let your team manager/coach know your child's availability for training sessions and matches and so that you know the venue and kick-off time of each game. Should you have any questions or queries, please contact your coach in the first instance.





RISERS FOOTBALL MASH UP

On Saturday 10th June it was the annual Mash Up, a brilliant football-focused end to another historical season for the RISERS. A chance for a football mash up between age groups and the trophy presentation. It was the perfect opportunity to thank our players, coaches, volunteers and sponsors with a friendly and fun filled day with food, drink, inflatables, sweets and face-painting!

Preloved football boots were on display on the Rising Stars Kit Bag stall and the pop up Club Shop was bursting with Puma and Rising Stars merch including umbrellas, hats, reusable bottles and much more!

Seeing the sea of yellow shirts joining the Mash Up throughout the day with friends and family is such an empowering and unbelievable sight, and shows that all the hard work is worth it!





RISERS FOOTBALL MASH UP





NEW KIT & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



We are excited to announce that all RISERS will receive a brand new home and away kit next season, proudly sponsored for the next two seasons by Broadway Veterinary Group and Blatch and Green (new homes and renovations).

Further kit and accessories, emblazoned with the club logo are available to order via the club's online shop.

A massive thank you to our new sponsors for your support. The kits look fantastic!

For further information on our new sponsors, please visit their websites, via the links below.

<https://www.broadwayvetgroup.co.uk/>
<https://www.blatchandgreen.com/>

For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities, please visit our website or email website@risingstarsyouthfc.co.uk.

CLUB SHOP

Visit our Club Shop for Official Risers Kit and Merchandise....



SHOP NOW



RISING STARS KIT BAG

If you're in need of a pair of football boots or astro trainers that may be good for a few months or to get you through until Christmas, or are in need of a spare pair, we may be able to help. Donations of football boots and astro trainers are also welcome.

We are happy to accept any second hand shin pads and any outgrown Risers branded clothing for others to benefit from.

Please visit our dedicated Facebook page to find out more - <https://www.facebook.com/RisersKitBag/>





ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I speak about the club in general and season 2022-23 in particular, the word I use most frequently is awesome. We have awesome volunteers, awesome teams and individual achievements, and an awesome future ahead of us!

A huge thank you to those awesome people with whom this club would not survive; to our sponsors who support us not only with funds but by promotion of the club within the community; to the professional, passionate and dedicated club members who take on committee, coaching, team manager and other volunteer roles putting in so much time and effort; and to the families behind those people who either lose their partner or parent for the season or get dragged along into volunteering as well whether they like it or not!



We say farewell to our Assistant Club / League Secretary, **Kathryn Derby**. Thank you for coming back to support us in the various roles over the past 18 months. Thankfully, Kathryn will remain on the coaching team and **Georgina Lumby** will take on the role of League Secretary. Thank you for volunteering Georgina, welcome to the committee!

Anthony Sands, our club Chairman, who does not stop working for this club in so many different roles. It has been a tough year for Anthony and his family but he has continued performing at the highest level to make sure we all have training venues, pitches to play on and so much more. Thank you, you are awesome!

Sam Allen, our co-chair, who provides invaluable support to Anthony and Jenny, our Club Secretary along with organising kits, coaching equipment and much more. Thank you, you are awesome!

Jenny Hancock, our Club Secretary, well what a job! Jenny you hold the thread that keeps it all together, you work with all aspects of the club; managing player registrations and our social channels, chasing up everyone to make sure everything runs smoothly and you make sure that the rest of the football leagues hear about us. This was evident with the Kent FA Digital Club of the Year award that you picked up last month. Jenny, you are truly awesome!

Aileen and **Sarah** and the rest of the Fixtures Secretaries, what a tough job you have had this year with school pitches being closed due to bad weather at the last minute and still being able to fulfil the majority of fixtures by finding pitches for our teams to play on. An awesome job, thank you! We say goodbye to Sarah this coming season, and pitch bookings will now be managed by **Robert Ledger**. Welcome to the team, Rob!

Sue Rumball, our Club Treasurer, who has had a busy year with over 400 children playing football for Rising Stars. Sue, you are awesome, making sure venues are paid for training and match day games. Making sure every monthly payment comes in on time and then chasing those that don't!

John and **Gloria** our awesome Referee Secretaries. Thank you for managing to find referees for our games over the season. This is a difficult job with limited referees out there.

I would also like to recognise **Andrew Boughton**, **Chris Gremo**, **Gary Darch**, **Kerry Hales**, **Lucia Bergamasco**, **Monica Sands**, **Paul Charlwood**, **Robin Cousins** and our welfare officers who sit on the committee and have worked on different projects to make sure Rising Stars is the best around. Thank you so much, you are all awesome!

I hope you have all enjoyed a well-earned break through July and look forward to coming back ready to do it all again mid-August. Thank you again and remember TEAM stands for **T**ogether, **E**veryone, **A**chieves, **M**ore.

Steve Rumball, President





SEASON 2022-23 PHOTO GALLERY





GET INTO REFEREEING WITH KENT FA

Kent FA are holding a series of 'Get into Refereeing Workshops'. If you know of anyone who is interested or would like to find out more, please forward them this link - <https://www.kentfa.com/referees/get-into-refereeing>. These online workshops are designed to give all potential referees an insight of the types of courses available, the requirements needed to complete the course, what refereeing involves and the challenges that could be faced as a match official.

The workshop is approximately 2 hours in duration, where you will be guided through the refereeing experience, looking at all formats of the game and the opportunities available within the County. If you decide to begin your refereeing journey here, the referee course (9v9 and/or 11v11 football) will only be a few weeks away. Here is a list of the upcoming workshop dates:

- Monday 2nd October 2023 (7pm-9pm)
- Wednesday 11th October 2023 (7pm-9pm)
- Monday 13th November 2023 (7pm-9pm)
- Saturday 25th November 2023 (9am-11am)
- Monday 4th December 2023 (7pm-9pm)
- Thursday 7th December 2023 (7pm-9pm)



GET INTO REFEREEING WORKSHOP

Ever wondered if you could take up the whistle?

Take the first step to getting involved with refereeing!



SQUAD GIRLS

We're extremely proud to be one of the first providers of Squad Girls locally, giving girls ages 12-14 the opportunity to make friends play football, in a fun, no pressure environment. We hope to continue from September with the support of local secondary schools.

Coaches Kathryn and Natalie were joined by the Kent FA last month and feature in the latest edition of The Kent Football Show, watch [here](#). If you'd like to get involved, please contact the committee.



CLUB COMMUNICATION

Regular club communication will be posted via Spond. Please download the app and turn on notifications so not to miss anything. Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest club news and we welcome your match reports and RISERS photos. Please send them to clubsecretary@risingstarsyouthfc.co.uk or tag us [@risingstarsyouthfc](#).

Training starts from week commencing Monday 14th August - venue, day and time will be added to Spond by your coach if not done so already. In the meantime, please save the date for our Pre Season and AGM which will be held virtually on **Monday 11th September**. See the Spond event for joining link and agenda, which will be posted nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you there if not before.

