Welcome to the New Year edition of your club’s newsletter. Does this winter already seem to be colder and wetter than previous years? It seems that we have already had more games called off this year due to snow and waterlogged pitches than ever before. Even our own pitches at Chadderton Fold which have good drainage have suffered. Maybe it’s just me getting old and feeling the cold more!

AARON ASHFORTH

All at Chadderton Park FC would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Aaron Ashforth who, tragically, died suddenly on 30 October 2008 at the very young age of 21 years. Aaron played for Chadderton Park from 2001 until 2005 and was a very popular member of the club. Playing in the Rochdale & Oldham Youth Football League, Aaron’s skill and hard work helped his team lift both the League Cup and the Fair Play Award at Under 18s level in the 2004/5 season. Aaron will be very sadly missed.

SPORTSMANS EVENING

You were warned that this was going to be a good night out and it was certainly that! Martyn Torr (business editor Oldham Evening Chronicle) was excellent as Master of Ceremonies and comedian Venn Tracey was even better than last year if that’s possible! Guest speaker Joe Royle is still very popular in this town and he could write a book with the stories he could tell about football (what do you mean he already has!) In conversation with him later in the evening he admitted that whilst he was manager at Oldham Athletic he once tried to buy Gary Pallister from Middlesbrough. The fee had been agreed at £15,000 but Oldham Athletic couldn’t raise the money! Pallister was later sold by Middlesbrough to Manchester United for £1.3 million; a record fee for a defender. It just goes to show, Joe Royle could always spot quality players at basement prices. All pictures from the evening can be viewed on our website at www.chaddertonparkfc.co.uk
THE FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The ladies in the Club continue to do well in the fantasy football league. At the time of going to print there are four ladies in the top 10 and “Wildcats FC” (Mary Lynch) has just won “Manager of the Month”. However, the top three positions are all now held by men. There is a saying that cream always rises to the top! Come on ladies, you’re doing alright but you just need to try a bit harder. Before any of the Chadderton Park wits point out that I’m languishing near the bottom of the league let me just say this, it’s a marathon not a sprint; no titles are ever won at Christmas and there’s a long way to go yet before the end of the season.

CHADDERTON FOLD

The building work at Chadderton Fold is now well underway and the building should be completed in 2009. The whole project had been financed by our own fund raising activities and without any assistance from the F.A. or other funding sources. That is a fantastic achievement by everybody involved in the Club. As we move into the final building stages it is vital that we carry on raising the necessary funds.

For £5 you can sponsor a brick and receive a brick certificate and have your name put in the Club register. For £125 you, your employer or your business can sponsor 25 bricks and have your name put on a plate in the new building. Either way it is your opportunity to put your name down in history as these records will still be there long after we have gone.

THE SCARF AND HAT COMPETITION

It may seem a bit odd to take the Chadderton Park scarf and hat on your summer holiday with you but we are running a competition to see our hats and scarves travel the world. So take them with you and photograph them. Send the photos to craig@craigsimpson.co.uk and they will all be published on our website. A prize will be awarded to the best photo. The best photo is not necessarily the one that travels the furthest so photos of the donkeys on Blackpool beach have as much chance as the Great Wall of China.
RAG-BONE

Do you get plenty of those plastic bags through your letter box asking you to fill it with old clothes? Terry Jennings will once again be running our Bag2School charity clothes bags within the next few weeks. Don’t support the others, support ours. At least you know where 100% of the money will be going.

CHADDERTON PARK F.C. WEBSITE

Have I mentioned that the Club has its own website at www.chaddertonparkfc.co.uk It is probably the best junior football club website bar none. Each team has its own page on the website and most of them have been customized with music. There are team photos; match reports; video match reports; results and league tables. There are photos of team visits to United, City and Latics; tournaments at Southport and Amsterdam; the development of Chadderton Fold; details of the monthly lottery winner and all the news involving the teams at our Club. The hit counter on the site records where in the world people are viewing our website. Although the majority of hits are from the U.K. we regularly get hits from European countries such as Ireland, Spain and Germany and at the time of writing the site has recorded hits from Sunnyvale California; Tempe Arizona and Perth Western Australia. Why not make our website your home page on your computer and keep up to date with all the news?

THE RACE NIGHT

The Race Night has been booked for Friday 13th March 2009 (we’re not superstitious are we) at North Chadderton Social and Bowling Club. This is a great night out run by DJ Andy Saunders and usually dominated by the mini soccer teams but everybody is welcome. It is also one of the main fundraising evenings for the Club so please support us this year.

PRESENTATION NIGHT

Presentation Night has been booked for Friday 19th June 2009 at The Queen Elizabeth Hall. Please make a note of the date in your diary.
Did you know that your Club’s Committee and Team Managers sit down together every two months to discuss any problems and the development of the Club. The meetings are laid back and informal and are open to anybody connected to the Club so why not come down and meet some of the people that run our Club? By the time you read this we will probably already had the January meeting but if you are interested in the future you can get more details from me at steve.lynch55@hotmail.co.uk The meetings are held on licensed premises if that makes it any more attractive!

At the time of going to print our U9s; U10s; U11s; U12s Girls and U18s teams are all riding high at the top of their respective divisions and our U11s are through to the last 16 of the County Cup. Let’s hope they are there at the end of the season but lets also hope that all our teams have success on the pitch and carry on playing with the style and flair that is fast becoming the trademark of Chadderton Park Football Club.

The next Newsletter will be out at Easter 2009. If you have any items suitable for publication please send them to me now. Don’t be shy!

Steve Lynch
Secretary
Chadderton Park F.C.