

Readstone

U N I T E D

10 Years of Junior Football in Read and Simonstone



DAVID EAVES

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Ribble Valley, 1998

Published in Great Britain by
David Eaves and Readstone United

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Typeset in Schneidler and Gill Sans.
Origination by AdRoit Communication Ltd., Burnley.
Printed by B & D Print Ltd. Leyland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Author and publisher wish to thank the following for help in producing this volume: Alan Greenwood and the Accrington and District Junior Football League; Mr Ray Ryland and Burnley Warburton Youth Football League; Richard Burns and David Richardson and the Hyndburn and District Boys' Football League; The staff of Accrington, Burnley and Clitheroe Libraries; The Clitheroe Advertiser; The Burnley Express; The Lancashire Evening Telegraph.

We are particularly indebted to the Clitheroe Advertiser, the Burnley Express, the Lancashire Evening Telegraph, Clive Bennett, Paul Clarke, Alan Garner, David Jones, Martin McGauley, Brian Jeffries, Geoff Lambert, Paul Thomas-Fisher, Brian Yeoman and Paul Worsh who have placed their photographic collections at the author's disposal.

Front cover: Readstone United Past, Present and Future – April 1998. Some of the boys and girls who over the past 10 years have made the club so successful. Back row: Chris Eaves, Duncan Bennett, Andrew Lambert, Michael Jones, Matthew Ward. Centre row upper: Andrew Bennett, Michael Fox, Victoria Lambert, Andrew Moores, Oliver Clarke. Centre row lower: John Thompson, Joseph Marshall, Thomas Fearnhead, Ashley Jeffries, Matthew Whitwell. Front row: Thomas Laurie, Jamie Bury, Matthew Sharpley, Chantelle McCormack, Tony Howorth and Oliver Tyreman. (Photo: Author).

Inside front cover: Training on Read School Field, February 1998. (Photo: Author).

Back cover: Young Oliver Tyreman, captain of Readstone United's Under 9s, receives the North Valley League Cup from John Bradley, the League's Chairman, after the cup final with Foulridge Minors, May 1998. (Photo: Author).

Foreword



AS THE first President of Readstone United Junior Football Club and the former Vicar of Read, I am very honoured and pleased to be invited to write this foreword.

This most comprehensive account of the club's history over the past 10 years is a compelling story of how the club from very humble beginnings has become today one of the strongest and most flourishing youth organisations in the Ribble Valley.

Behind the statistics lies the story of some dedicated adult leaders who have given unsparingly of their time and talents for the benefit of countless boys and girls during the club's existence. Like most organisations Readstone has experienced many ups and downs, but I am glad to say that the problems have been overcome by loyalty, dedication and teamwork by a hardworking band of parents and an enthusiastic committee.

Readstone United has a high reputation in the area for good sportsmanship and fair play, and a record in junior football circles of which it can be justly proud.

May the club flourish over the coming years and go from strength to strength. My motto for Readstone United is this: "Hats off to the past – Jackets off for the future!"

Alan Reid, *President.*
Readstone United Junior
Football Club



Rev. Alan Reid, Readstone United club president, presents a trophy to Matthew Whitwell at the club's Presentation Evening, Padiham Town Hall, May 1997. (Photo: Author).

*This book is dedicated to all who are mentioned below
who have selflessly and freely given up their time
in helping the young people of Read, Simonstone and
surrounding area achieve their sporting ambitions.*

Readstone United Committee 1998/99

President: Rev. Alan Reid

Chairman: Clive Bennett

Vice-Chairman: David Marshall

Secretary: David Eaves

Treasurer: Geoff Lambert

General Committee and Team Managers:

Paul Clarke, Peter Stubbs, Alan Fearnhead, Paul Liles, Ian James
Paul Thomas-Fisher, Steve Whitwell, Phil Tyreman, David Laurie
Steve Laurie, Andrew Sharpley, Tony Bury

Previous Committee Members and Managers:

Steve Neary, John Stubbs, Malcolm Howorth, Alan Spence,
Martin McGauley, Tom Baker, Paul Worsh, Alan Garner, Phil Scarborough,
Tony French, Paul Haworth, Chris Ward, Duncan Bell, Stephen Clark,
Geoff Beckett, David Jones, Andrew Little, Alan Ashworth, Armas Best,
Graham Torbett, Darryl Holden, David Tinker, Brian Jeffries,
Craig McConnachie, Paul Booth, Joyce Lambert, Cathy Yeoman,
Lesley Wilkinson, Michael Finn, Ray Baldwin;

Keiron Abbott and Hall Smith,
and all our sponsors over the years –
too many to mention!

George Hibbert, Glyn Fowler and John Trotter of Clitheroe Wolves
for their support with the Ribble Valley Junior 5-a-side Tournaments;

and finally, but most of all, Brian Yeoman and John Hill,
who had the courage and foresight to get the ball rolling!

All of whom can proudly call themselves Readstone United.

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Main picture: Going in where it hurts! Dean Hitchen (dark socks), Readstone's Under 13 striker grimaces as he challenges for the ball against a tough Michelin defence in March 1992. Dean had the last laugh, notching a hat-trick as Readstone ran out easy 6 – 2 winners. Andrew Booth looks on in the background. Inset: Jonathan Dugdale unleashes a block-buster in the same match. "Duggie" was a consistent goalscorer for Readstone, Clitheroe Grammar School and the town team. (Both photos: Author).



Introduction



AS YOU drive along the main road through the villages of Read and Simonstone you will find no stadium or clubhouse, or even a pitch, belonging to Readstone United. But in the 10 years since Readstone was formed, despite the absence of these facilities, the club has developed into the largest, and most enthusiastic youth organisation in the area.

The building blocks of our success are not bricks and mortar, but people, and the friendships that have been forged and endured over the years.

Although our club has its origins in the cub scout



Where it all began. Calder cub pack leader Kevin Nuttall gives a talk about fieldcraft to a group of lads in Shady Walk Woods at Padiham Heights in the spring of 1988. Looking on in the background are Geoff Lambert – sporting sensible outdoor headwear – and Clive Bennett. (Photo: Author).



The author, front right, with George Hibbert, chairman of Clitheroe Wolves, Coun. Mrs Jenny Grimes, Mayor of Ribble Valley, and some of the 550 boys who took part in the Readstone/Wolves Ribble Valley Junior 5-a-side Football tournament, at Roefield, Clitheroe, June 1997. (Photo: Lancashire

movement, today we are family orientated, with parents taking a far more active role.

For Readstone is a family, albeit an extended one, and as you browse through the pages of this volume you will see our children growing up, and changing year by year from children to adults. It is also a sobering thought that many of these young people could quite conceivably be bringing their own children to Readstone training sessions in the not too distant future.

To write a “family album” like this takes a lot of support and I would like to thank all those past and present club members who have opened up their own photographic albums, and also made a financial commitment to the project by ordering and paying for their copy in advance of publication; to the businesses who have provided financial support; and, in particular, to Geoff Lambert for his enthusiasm and support. And finally, but not least, to Cath, my wife, for putting up with my obsession for the project, and all those dirty kits she washed and ironed over the last 10 years!

David Eaves, Ribble Valley, August 1998.

I Ribble v Calder 1986-1989



THERE was a time, not too long ago, when there were two junior football teams in the village of Read. The teams were made up of boys from the Sabden, Read and Simonstone schools, and played their football under the umbrella of the villages’ cub scout troop.

Not exactly a City-United or Celtic-Rangers institution you may say, but to the lads who turned up every Saturday morning with their boots and kit to play for the Calder and Ribble packs in the Burnley Cub Scout Football League, the rivalry and competition was no less intense.

And the intensity didn’t just stay on the pitch. Parents were equally enthusiastic, encouraging their children on from the sidelines in their support. You were either Calder or Ribble, there was no middle ground.

Scouting has probably been our country’s greatest youth movement over the last 60 years, and although it now appears to be in decline, during the mid-1980s the ideals of Lord Baden-Powell were still firm and practised fervently in the Ribble Valley. Indeed, there was even a waiting list in Read, such was scouting’s popularity.

Physical and competitive sports have always been encouraged by the scout movement, and pride of place in the Read packs went to our nation’s number one sport – football. Alongside other activities such as acquiring outdoor skills and working towards proficiency badges, the scouting movement believed football, and sport in general, to be an excellent way of releasing youthful aggression in a disciplined manner. There was also another pleasing aspect – good work and success was rewarded with trophies, certificates and badges, and gave a lad a purpose to work towards – a tradition we have endeavoured to continue at Readstone.

The Ribble pack, led by the Read husband and wife team of Clive and Valerie Bennett, were outstanding in their quality of football. Clive and Philip Webster spent many hours coaching the lads at weekends on Read School Field, and the team responded magnificently by winning the League three years in succession and coasting to a memorable cup final victory.

Michael Dalby, a left sided player with great speed and brilliant ball



Read Ribble Cubs, 1988 – three championships and a cup win. Back row: Chris Pickles, Andrew Whittaker, Robert Yates, Peter Haworth, John Chesworth. Front: Sam Marshall, James Andrew, Andrew Anderson, Michael Dalby, Roger Haythornthwaite, Duncan Bennett. (Photo: Bennett family).



Read Calder Cubs, 1988. The lads gather together prior to the Pedder Trophy match. Back row: John Lever, Chris Laverty, Andrew Worsall, Kevin Umpleby, Richard Dearing, Andrew Maxwell. Front row: Stephen Pike, Gavin Yeoman, Andrew Lambert, Chris Eaves, Peter Firth, Neil Burrell, Duncan Scarborough, Richard SeEVERS. (Photo: Author).

skills for his age, scored over 60 goals in one particular season, an impressive feat no matter what level the game is played at. The team also boasted players such as Clive's son, Duncan; Roger Haythornthwaite; Greg Smith; Peter Haworth and Sam Marshall, who both now play for Read United; and Philip's son, James, who signed professional forms for Burnley Football Club, and later returned to Readstone in May, 1995, to present trophies at the club's annual Presentation Evening.

Calder were run by Bob Turner and his wife, Shirley, from Burnley, and shortly before the packs' demise, by an equally enthusiastic Kevin Nuttall, from Rose Grove.

The Calder pack never reached the dizzy heights of Ribble in football terms, but were always enthusiastic and recorded some remarkable victories.

A highlight of the Calder pack's season was the annual match with Padiham St. John's, when the teams competed for a trophy donated by Keith Pedder, of Sabden. In May, 1988, the *Burnley Express* recorded Calder

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“ I THINK I am probably the last remaining committee member who attended the first club meeting at Malcolm Howorth's house in 1989, and am very proud to have been associated with the club and all it has achieved over the years.

As a parent of two boys, Sam and Joseph, who have represented Readstone, I am particularly proud of their involvement in the cup finals of 1992 and 1994. What a contrast though. Sam's final in 1992 at the Lucas Sports Ground, was played in torrential rain with a waterlogged pitch, but the weather couldn't dampen the lads spirits as they dug out a well deserved victory.

The 1994 cup final held at Great Harwood's Showground, which Joseph took part in, was completely the opposite. It was held during a drought. The pitch was devoid of all grass and it was just impossible to control the ball as it bounced incredibly high over the boys' heads. There was little doubt in my mind of it being a

contributing factor, along with the folly of utilising such a big pitch for such young boys, in our injury time defeat.

The groundsman obviously took note of the conditions and had the local fire brigade down the following day watering the pitch in preparation for Great Harwood's next home match!

I have been a local referee for 28 years and it was pleasing for me to win the Hyndburn League's "Linesman of the Year" Award in 1996. But it was even more satisfying knowing I had achieved it whilst representing Readstone.

I have some great memories of Readstone, and my lasting impressions are of some superb men who have managed teams; conscientiously attended committee meetings; and an amazing treasurer and chairman in Geoff Lambert and Clive Bennett, who have diligently carried out their duties.”



– David Marshall.

as winning the trophy for the third year in succession, defeating a weakened St. John's team 10-1. The scorers that day were Andrew Lambert (3), Robert Thomas (2), Gavin Yeoman (2), and one goal each from Peter Firth, Duncan Scarborough and Chris Laverty. The following year Calder didn't find the going quite as easy, retaining the trophy by a single goal from Stephen Pike and some outstanding goalkeeping by Chris Eaves.

When Bob Turner stood down from the packs' leadership in 1988, due to ill health, Kevin Nuttall took over the Calder reins. Running a pack of 20 boisterous lads singlehandedly would be a difficult task for anyone, and not in the least Kevin, who promptly asked for volunteers to assist him in managing the football team so he could devote more of his time to getting the boys through the more complicated scouting proficiency tests.

Brian Yeoman, a local paramedic, stepped forward – his son, Gavin, already being a member of the team – along with his neighbour and friend, John Hill, and another Read resident, John Stubbs. Brian and the two Johns, bubbling with enthusiasm, set about the task with great energy and by the close of the 1988/89 season Calder pack were turning in some



Here is the proof that men never quite grow up, but all women have been saying this for years! Peter Carroll is tackled from behind by a combination of Russell Bennett and John Hill whilst local solicitor Barry Dearing gets ready to pick up the loose ball, in this Lads v. Dads match in 1988. In the background can be seen Barry's son, Richard, and two taller "boys", Geoff Lambert and Alan Firth. (Photo: Bennett family).



Chris Eaves, captain of Read Calder Cubs is presented with the Keith Pedder Trophy from Keith Pedder, at Read, after defeating St. John's, Padiham, 1 - 0. Chris Laverty and Gavin Yeoman are already in celebratory mode and anticipating the traditional champagne celebration at the winning team's hotel! (Photo: Author).



Another champagne picture. This time it's "Steady" Eddie Wood, captain of Read Ribble Cubs, receiving the winning trophy at the Cliviger Football Tournament, 1989. Those boots must be new, because he never had them that clean when he played for me! Michael Dalby is next in line to parade the cup in front of the runners-up. (Photo: Bennett family).

excellent performances. Brian was also instrumental in gaining sponsorship for a new kit from Steve Credie, a partner in Credie-Neil.

A memorable feature of that time were the Lads versus Dads matches played on the school field, and the author recalls some great games with the likes of Clive Bennett, Geoff Lambert, Philip Scarborough, Malcolm Howorth, Brian Haythornthwaite, Paul Booth and the author lining up against their sons in some quite enjoyable entertainment whilst raising a few pounds for local charities and scout funds.

Success, new strips, enthusiastic parental involvement and a good mix of lads with developing skills, meant affairs were definitely on the up in Read. However, there was a cloud on the horizon, the signals coming from the League was there were to be no football for the lads moving on up to the scouts, and it was also doubtful that there would be any organised football for those staying with the cubs. The reason given – it was all getting too competitive and moving away from scouting ideals!

During the summer of 1989 some of the boys signed up for a number of teams in the Hyndburn Boys' League, such as Blue Star, so ensuring weekend football for the new season, but to those left behind, and not as gifted, it was going to be a grim winter, unless something could be done for them.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“IT'S DIFFICULT to describe in words just how successful Readstone has been over the last 10 years. The club has grown in strength, year after year, to become one of the most respected youth organisations in the area and this can only be attributed to the players, managers and committee members.

Although most of the passages in this book, no doubt, will be in respect of what has been done on the pitch, a lot of what happens off it is equally as important.

The tremendous hard work of the managers who relentlessly give up many hours in training and turning out on match days is often overlooked. Also the work of the committee, which also incorporates the managers.

Every month for the past 10 years the committee have met, often for hours on end, discussing the running of the club, organising

fund raising events, sorting out pitch leasing and training venues, so as to ensure the only worry a boy has, is winning a place in one of the teams and then retaining that place by working hard on the field and developing his skills in training.

Despite all the hard work, I think I speak for all, when I say it has been worthwhile.

Unfortunately, this will be my last season as secretary of the club, and I would like to say it has been an honour and a pleasure to have been a part of Readstone United. I would also like to thank all the players, managers – past and present – and the general committee for all their support, and wish the club every success for the next 10 years.☺

– Alan Spence, Club Secretary 1989-1998



2 Read and Simonstone united 1989-1990



BEHIND Malcolm Howorth's front door in the hall-way hangs a photograph of Readstone United's Under 13 team celebrating their 1992 cup final win. A proud moment for Readstone and the Howorth family, as Malcolm's son, James, and his teammates, punch the air in triumph, their faces a picture of pure joy, and a night never to be forgotten.

But it could quite easily have been a different story. In the autumn of 1989 there was little hope for the lads of Read and Simonstone playing football, never mind winning a cup final. Well, that is until Paul Booth, Brian Yeoman, David Marshall, John Hill, John Stubbs, Hall Smith, Geoff Lambert and Alan Spence got together in Malcolm's front room and thrashed out a plan to set up a junior football club for the villages' youngsters. Over the next few meetings the groundwork, which was considerable, laid down by these concerned parents, would develop into the building blocks which eventually would become Readstone United, one of the Ribble Valley's leading youth organisations.

It soon became apparent there was a lot of work to be done and a lot of questions to be answered. “Do we have enough players?”; “Who do we know who has experience of setting up and running a junior football club and would be willing to help us?”; “Which League should we apply to join?”; “Where can we play?”; “How do we finance the club?”; “What shall we call ourselves?” These were just a few of the poignant questions asked at those first meetings. Some were answered straight away, but others demanded a great deal of thought, and would occupy the minds of the new committee members over the next few months.

The name of “Readstone United” put forward by John Hill was unanimously adopted, being an amalgamation of Read and Simonstone. There was also a suggestion of “Beaufort United” as several of the committee lived in Beaufort Close, but this was rejected as being too parochial. Readstone sounded quite stylish, although the author has attended various League meetings over the years where we have been mistakenly referred to as “Roadstone” – obviously someone felt we're very gritty and a difficult team to crack open – and on more than one occasion as



“We are Readstone United!” The first team to play under the Readstone banner, pictured at Read in November 1989 shortly before a friendly with Cliviger. Back row: John Stubbs (coach), John Lever, Greg Smith, Andrew Whittaker, James Howorth, Andrew Rushton, Robert Thomas, John Hill (manager). Front row: Gavin Yeoman, Stephen Pike, Chris Eaves, Duncan Scarborough, Richard Dearing, John Ashe. Nice hat Mr Hill! (Photo: Author).

“Rhinestone.” But we know who the cowboys are, and it certainly isn’t us! But mispronunciation apart Readstone gives a sense of belonging and when a boy pulls on his Readstone shirt, a feeling of pride and knowledge



The Cliviger attack kept the Readstone ‘keeper busy! (Photo: Author).

that he is representing the two communities. Whether you’re starting a business or a new venture it is always helpful to find someone who has done it before, or as we say nowadays, worn the tee-shirt and bought the cap. In Readstone’s case the cap fitted Clive Bennett. Clive, whom we have already met in the first chapter, was scout leader of the Read Ribble Cub Pack, and had known many of the lads from a young age. He also had two boys, Russell and Duncan, who were interested in joining the club. Clive had other hats to wear too: he was a governor at Read School; and had close connections with Read United; at one time he had

been team manager. It was therefore unanimously agreed by the committee to get Clive Bennett at all costs – break the transfer ceiling if need be – and pressgang him into helping the fledgling club!

As to the question of finance, the committee members dug into their own pockets and each donated £10 as a float to get the club off the ground. A number of suggestions were made regarding fund raising – one of them was to hold a family fun day, getting both parents and children involved.

The new committee appointed three officers to cover the paperwork: Paul Booth was elected chairman; Malcolm Howorth volunteered his services as secretary; and Geoff Lambert was appointed treasurer, a position to his credit he holds to this day. In connection with team matters, John Hill was appointed manager, and the position of coach was taken up by Brian Yeoman.

Before the meeting closed a request was made to the secretary to write to the *Burnley Express* and *Clitheroe Advertiser*, informing youngsters of the new club and any adults who would be interested in volunteering their services.

On the playing front, the first training session of Readstone United took place in January, 1990, on a cold and wet Sunday afternoon, at Altham Junior School playing field. Despite the inclement weather, over 20 boys and almost as many adults turned up for what was to be a very enjoyable session.

With training firmly established on Sunday afternoons, the committee turned its attention to finding somewhere to play and the purchase of a kit. The club made an appeal to the governors of Read School for the use of the school field in Straits Lane, and was met with a favourable response. Read United was also contacted who gave permission for the occasional use of their pitch and changing rooms beneath the Constitutional Club.

The club then contacted a number of local businesses with a request for sponsorship. Mr Keiron Abbott, of Read Motor Bodies, stepped forward and sponsored a complete new strip of green and white shirts, white shorts and green stockings, rather reminiscent of Glasgow Celtic. Readstone cannot express its gratitude enough to Keiron, for not only did he sponsor the club’s first kit, when we were sorely in need of funds, but over the subsequent years has sponsored a further three kits – a magnificent gesture and a shining example of a business supporting the local community.

The committee made two further appointments, Clive Bennett joined,

and took over the chair from Paul Booth, and the Rev. Alan Reid, Vicar of St. John's Church, was invited to become club president. Alan, a well known and respected figure in the village of Read, and an ardent Clarets' fan, agreed readily, and has held a long and happy relationship with the club ever since. He is often seen at matches encouraging the players and never failing in his support of the committee members.

After almost a season without any competitive football the lads were eager to get a game in, and believing they were ready, John Hill organised a number of friendly matches. The first game was at Sabden, on the Holme Field, against a team some of whom were two or three years older than our lads. It goes without saying we were thrashed, but there were some pleasing performances, notably from the forwards, Michael Dalby and Ian Haworth, who both got on the score sheet. The author recalls the game quite vividly, more for the atrocious weather, muddy pitch and having to continually retrieve the ball from Sabden Brook, rather than the scoreline which reached double figures.

A fortnight later the team played a Huncoat United XI, at Peel Park, the former home of Accrington Stanley. The conditions were similar to the



Readstone show off their new kit sponsored by Keiron Abbott of Read Motor Bodies, shortly before a friendly with Bank Hall, April 1990. Back row: John Ashe, Duncan Bennett, Greg Smith, Russell Bennett, Chris Eaves, Robert Thomas, Andrew Whittaker, Gavin Yeoman, Mr Abbott. Front row: Ian Haworth, Sam Marshall, James Howorth, Andrew Anderson, Eddie Wood. (Photo: Author).



Sam Marshall, Andrew Anderson, Russell Bennett and second half substitute 'keeper, Robert Yates, taking their defensive duties with serious determination during the friendly with Bank Hall. (Photo: Author).



In those early friendly matches traffic seemed to be one way. In the game with Bank Hall, Readstone were on the wrong end of 13 – 0 thrashing. Robert Yates, not the tallest of keepers, can only watch as the Bank Hall striker puts away a penalty firmly out of his reach into the corner of the net. (Photo: Author).

previous game: wet and windy, with Readstone conceding a bag full of goals. In fact we gave away four penalties, but goalkeeper Chris Eaves saved two of them.

The third friendly was held at Bank Hall, in Burnley, against an experienced team coached by former Clarets' favourite, Leighton James. The new strip had arrived from the manufacturers the previous day and before the start of the game the team lined up with Keiron Abbott for a *Burnley Express* photocall. The lads were bristling with pride as they took up their positions for the kick off, and promptly found themselves a goal down within seconds! There then followed several more goals, in fact six all before half time.

Starting a junior football team from scratch is extremely difficult, especially when results start to go against you. As many managers have found before, heads go down, lads lose interest and quickly disappear from the scene – after all no-one wants to be a loser. It is at times like these that a team needs a good manager – and Readstone had one in John Hill.

It was obvious the new club had to learn and learn quickly if it was to survive. John took a decision not to play any more friendlies that season and to return to the training ground and start preparations early for the new season.

Away from the football the club held its first social fund raising event in April – a Family Quiz Night at Read Cricket Club. There were plenty of

quizzes and games for all the family to enjoy, and the event brought in £246 for club funds. The children's winning team "Everton" was captained by Dave Cullis, whilst the adult quiz was won by Rita and Gordon Whittaker of Simonstone.

Training was proving to be very popular and an average of 25 boys were turning up every week – enough for two teams. The committee therefore made a decision to make an application to the Presspart Hyndburn League for an Under 12s team and a second application to the Accrington and District Boys' League for an Under 11s team.

Alan Greenwood, the chairman of the Accrington League was most helpful, advising and making sure the new club knew what it was letting itself in for, before accepting the application. However, the application to the Hyndburn League – a more competitive concern – was unfortunately turned down, due to the existing clubs taking up all the available places. The first weeks of July were to be a worrying time for the committee, until news of a new junior football league in Burnley, centred on Towneley Park and organised by Ray Ryland and L.F.A. representative, Ray Cooper, came to the committee's attention. An application for membership was promptly sent off for an Under 12s team.

A kit sponsor was found for the Under 12s team in committee member, Hall Smith, who was also managing director, of Nike Hydraulics Ltd., of Nelson. Hall provided a strip of white shirts and black shorts with red socks, which looked very smart as the team lined up for a pre-season photograph on Read School Field in mid August.

With the League applications accepted even the committee found time to play, forming the Readstone Veterans. The "Vets" made their debut in a Telethon Charity Football Match and followed it up with a highly entertaining game on Read School Field, against the Altham Ambulance Brigade, running out 5 – 2 winners. Geoff Lambert led the front line, Paul Booth and Malcolm Howorth were steady at the back, and John "the Cat" Stubbs, dressed all in black, kept goal. John Hill scored twice, once from the penalty spot, and Steve Credie got another. Even the author got on the scoresheet, twice finding the back of the net, despite his spectacles misting up due to the drizzle. Oh, glory days!

As the 1990/91 season approached it was time to take stock: in a little under 12 months a new club had been born; acquired two sponsors; there was cash in the bank and two teams ready and raring to go and make an assault on their respective leagues.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

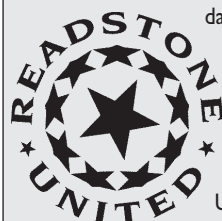
“ MY ASSOCIATION with junior football in Read began in the mid 1980s when my son, Gavin, was playing for Read Calder Cub Pack.

It seemed such a shame there would be no football for Gavin and the other lads when they left cubs. I mentioned this one

day to my next door neighbour, John Hill, and together we approached Malcolm Howorth and Geoff Lambert and in a very short time Readstone United was born.

I was assistant manager of my son's age group until the Under 15s level when shift work made it impossible for me to manage a team.

My fondest memories are working alongside Steve Neary; we had a good relationship and got together a great bunch of lads, who were also very good friends.☺ – Brian Yeoman.





Readstone United Under 11s, Accrington and District Boys' League, 1990/91. Back row: Anthony Gibbons, Tim Booth, Andrew Lambert, Chris Laverty, John Chesworth, Ross Bewley, John Lavelle, Gary Smith. Front row: Matthew Ward, Stephen Pike, Peter Firth, Gavin Yeoman, Duncan Scarborough. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United Under 12s, Burnley Towneley Youth League, 1990/91, sporting their new strip sponsored by Hall Smith and Nike Hydraulics. Back row: Neil Harper, Ian Haworth, Chris Pickles, Chris Eaves, James Howorth, Andrew Whittaker. Front row: John Ashe, Sam Marshall, Greg Smith, Andrew Anderson, Eddie Wood, Russell Bennett, Andrew Maxwell. (Photo: Author).

3 The big kick off 1990-1991



THE unexpected addition of a second team to the new club's ranks even before the first season commenced presented a problem – a shortage of manpower. More adults were required to help with the managing and transportation of teams to away matches.

It was decided there should be a reshuffling of committee members duties: Malcolm Howorth stood down as secretary to help John Hill and John Stubbs with the running of the Under 12s team; Alan Spence took over the role of secretary, a position he has held to this day; and the author and Read United player, Steve Neary, joined the committee. Steve took over as manager of the Under 11s team, with the assistance of Brian Yeoman.

During August several of the lads joined an F.A. Coaching Course, held at Wilson Playing Fields, Clayton-le-Moors, their fees being paid by the club. Andrew Lambert, James Howorth, Gavin Yeoman, Peter Firth, Greg Smith, Chris Eaves, Duncan Bennett, Mark French, Andrew Anderson and Robert Yates were the lucky participants. They all returned bubbling with enthusiasm, agreeing it was a great day out, picking up a lot of handy tips and well worth the time and money.

The club held a second Family Fun Day on 16 September, in glorious warm autumn sunshine, at Read Cricket Club. Once again the event was well attended and by the end of the day over £300 had been collected to help boost club funds.

On the playing side, both teams were training hard on Read School Field, honing their skills for the forthcoming season. The Under 12s came runners-up in the Padiham Festival Week junior football competition and were presented with a handsome shield commemorating their achievement. Further friendlies took place with a 5 – 2 win over Cliviger, on Cliviger Recreational Field; which was followed by a narrow 1 – 2 defeat at the hands of Padiham Olympic, at Fennyfold. Unfortunately, striker Ian Haworth sustained a broken toe during the match which meant he was to miss the opening two matches of the season.

The Under 11s were also involved in a number of pre-season friendlies,

FAMILY FUN DAY

TWO Burnley footballers were the special guests at Readstone United's second Family Fun Day on Sunday 16 September 1990. Ian Measham and Winston White were the soccer heroes on hand to present the prizes at the end of a fun-packed day of amusements and competitions at Read Cricket Club.

The cricket field was baked in warm autumnal sunshine and attracted plenty of visitors. On offer during the afternoon was a playgroup marquee, tombola, bottle stall and guess-the-contents-of-the-tin contest, challenge pool, guess-the-combined-weight-of-the-committee contest and a chance to beat the goalkeeper.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was a junior Krypton Factor with teams of boys and girls led by adults taking part in a variety of challenges to test them to the limit. The winning team called "Everton" was led by Peter Haworth, from Simonstone.

(Photos: Author and Burnley Express)



"The Guvnors" – Clive Bennett and Brian Yeoman, or is it Hale and Pace, ensure no unsuitables get past the gate.



"The King is in his counting house..." – club treasurer Geoff Lambert recording the fun day's takings.



Tony French and nine-year-old Elizabeth Eaves set up the "Coconut Shy."



Some of the youngsters looking for light refreshment.



Malcolm Howorth betrays his secret ambition – Rochdale F.C. ticket



Nobody beats this goalie – 10 years old Robert Yates with a solid defence.



Hall Smith and son, Gary, look on as Chris Duckworth takes on the pool challenge.

winning one against Huncoat but losing the next 0 – 7 to Lumb.

As the first day of the season in October approached training on Read School Field was suspended due to the shortening of daylight hours and transferred to Gawthorpe High School gymnasium, a facility we have gratefully used ever since.

The first games of the season produced a mixed bag of results. In their opening game, the Under 11s took a long, hard look at Rishton's defence,

probing for weaknesses before Peter Firth and Duncan Bennett took control and ripped it apart. Duncan finding the back of the Rishton net on two occasions. once with a splendid volley from the right hand side of the penalty area. For the Under 12s, however, the day was less memorable, losing 0 – 2 to a very accomplished Bank Hall team, at Lower Towneley Playing Fields, Burnley.

Nothing should be read into the results of that first season, it was a

settling in time, both teams had their fair share of highs and lows. The Under 12s twice lost out to Junior Clarets with 0 – 6 and 0 – 8 scorelines, but these were tempered with a fabulous 10 – 0 win over bottom placed Marsden in mid November, 1990. There were hat-tricks that day for Andrew Anderson and captain James Howorth; Ian Haworth poached two goals; and Eddie Wood and John Cooper, who was made man of the match by the referee, chipped in with one each.

Two days before Christmas, manager John Hill introduced a new player to the squad – Jonathan Dugdale, from Waddington. “Duggie” came on as a second half substitute against Brierfield Celtic, with Readstone trailing 0 – 1, and instantly made an impression by scoring two goals. One of the goals came about with a sweet right foot volley which he caught as the ball was swung over from a corner – a technique he was to repeat on a number of occasions whilst representing Readstone.

During the season a significant change was made to the defence, when John Hill moved Sam Marshall from the wing to sweeper. Sam’s performances were rather similar to Des Walker, who at the time was central to England’s marvellous World Cup campaign in Italia 90.

There was no shortage of excitement in the Under 11s matches. One notable game was a 2 – 2 draw with Pendle Forest, which could have gone either way. Readstone battled hard, with young Matthew Ward and Gavin Yeoman outstanding in their performance.

As the end of the season came round both teams held a very respectful mid-table position, and at the Presentation Evening, at Read Cricket Club, on Friday, 10 May, Jonathan Dugdale was awarded the Player of the Season trophy for the Under 12s and Matthew Ward received the same award for the Under 11s.

The club’s first competitive season had been a great success. Although we hadn’t won any trophies, the lads had competed well and, in many instances, performed far beyond their ability.

Despite all the activity on the park the adult members even found time to hold an “Oldies Night” with “Disco Inferno” at Read School, in March, when “oldies” such as Clive Bennett and Alan Firth strutted their stuff. A little known “gem” from that Spring was Geoff Lambert becoming ping-pong champion at Pontin’s Holiday Camp, when he won the title of Table Tennis Champion of the Week. A true sporting hero if ever there was one!

There was one final act to the season, in mid June Readstone held its first 5-a-side Junior Football Tournament, organised by John Hill, which



Duncan Bennett unleashes an unstoppable volley to score the Under 11s first goal in a pre-season friendly against Huncoat United. (Photo: Author).

was also to have a profound effect on the author. John saw the event as a means of saying thank you to the two leagues who had helped the new club so much in its first season, but to the author, and the club as a whole, it was the catalyst for a new adventure.



John Cooper challenges for a drop ball in the Under 12s first league match against Bank Hall at Towneley Park. (Photo: Author).

READSTONE STARS FROM 1990/91



Matthew Ward



Peter Firth



Simon Best



Jamie Garner



Stephen Clark



Jonathan Dugdale



James Howorth



Adam Kostilek



Sam Marshall



Andrew Lambert



Gavin Yeoman



Tom Bartlett

4 Up for the cup

1991-1992



THE summer of 1991 was a busy time for Readstone United – personnel came and went, and there was the addition of two further teams to the ranks and the formation of a girls team.

John Hill and John Stubbs left the club due to work and personal commitments, and Alan Garner, Martin MaGauley and Paul Worsh joined the committee. Alan teamed up with Phil Scarborough and Tony French to manage and coach a new Under 11s team, which was to compete in the Accrington Boys' League, and Martin and Paul put together a squad of nine-year-olds and younger boys, not to compete in any particular league, but to coach and prepare them for life in the Accrington League the following season

The previous season's Under 11s moved up to Under 12s, still under the direction of Steve Neary and Brian Yeoman, and transferred from the the Accrington Boys' League to the more competitive Hyndburn Presspart League, when an unexpected place became available.

In turn John Hill and John Stubbs' Under 12 team moved up to Under 13 level in the Burnley Towneley Youth League, under the new management team of Paul Haworth and Malcolm Howorth, with the assistance of David Marshall and the author. The lads took to the appointment of Paul and Malcolm in varying degrees. Paul, being a fit lad, could lead from the front, which he often did, especially in the pre-season running; however, Malcolm's good-humoured coaxing informing them they were a load of "big Jessies" wasn't always appreciated, especially by those who failed to keep up with Paul on the circuits around Read School Field!

The news of Readstone United was spreading across the Ribble Valley and with it came a new influx of players – Simon Best and Tom Barlett joined the Under 12s; Stephen Clark, Gareth Houghton, Dean Hitchen, Howard Braithwaite and Andrew Booth were added to Paul Haworth's Under 13 squad.

In the Under 12s Tom quickly proved himself a striker with a keen eye for goal, a quality he was to prove season after season for Readstone. Over in the Under 13s, big Steve Clark rose head and shoulders above all the

others in the Readstone goal, and caused many strikers down the years to have second thoughts before attempting a one-on-one with him.

Alan Garner's Under 11s also had their fair share of "stars" – Matthew Ward, from Read, Readstone's most consistent footballer over the first 10 years; Michael "Spike" Jones; Adrian Hartley and Thomas Little, who in 1997 was signed as an apprentice by Preston North End.

In the summer of 1991 Readstone was thriving. It was a pleasure to drive along Straits Lane on any evening of the week and see 40 or more children training and playing football under the supervision of an equally enthusiastic group of Read and Simonstone parents.

Even the girls were getting in on the act. Lesley Wilkinson and husband Ian, had 25 young ladies out on the school field training every Wednesday evening, and with the assistance of Cathy Yeoman, Joyce Lambert, Ray Baldwin and former Clarets' favourite, Micky Finn, were knocking them into shape.

Martin McGauley had 28 boys to choose from for his first Under 10 friendly in August – one of whom wanted to be a goalkeeper, whilst the other 27, preferred the position of striker! Well, this was the excuse offered by Martin at the end of the match, as his team slumped to a 0 – 25 defeat at the hands of a very capable team from St. Mary's, Langho. "There's always a learning curve," was Martin's closing statement of his manager's report at the September committee meeting.

As the new season got into swing there were high expectations, Alan Garner's Under 11s led the way with four wins from their first five games. Their opening game was against Michelin, which they easily won 5 – 1, and followed it up by victories over Huncoat United, W.B.P. Boys and a 9 – 1 thrashing of St. John's, when Michael "Spike" Jones helped himself to five goals. A further 11 – 0 win, in early November, over Rishton United with goals from Adrian Hartley (4), Michael Jones (3), Bevan Scarborough (2) and one each for Danny Sharples and Jamie Garner, sent the team to the top of the league, and was instrumental in "Spikey" being made the Accrington League's Player of the Month for his goal scoring expertise.



Michael "Spikey" Jones, Readstone's Under 11 striker awarded "Player of the Season" for the Accrington Boys' League.

Steve Neary's Under 12s were not being left behind either, in the fiercely competitive



Readstone United Under 13s, Burnley Towneley Youth League, 1991/92. Back row: Sam Marshall, Jonathan Dugdale, Gareth Houghton, Michael Dalby, Stephen Clark, Mark Hargreaves, Chris Pickles. Front row: John Cooper, Dean Hitchen, Chris Eaves, James Howorth, Howard Braithwaite. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United Under 12s, Hyndburn Presspart Boys' League, sporting a new strip for the 1991/92 season sponsored by Steve Prosser. Back row: Andrew Lambert, James Murray, Adam Kostilek, Peter Dugdale, Richard Lambert, Peter Firth, Ross Bewley. Front row: Gavin Yeoman, Jamie Garner, Simon Best, Tom Bartlett, Sheldon Salisbury. (Photo: Yeoman family).



Readstone United Under 9s and 10s, 1991/92. Back row: _____, Andrew Duckworth, David Burgess, Andrew Jeffries, Chris Bennett, Thomas Almond, Andrew Stubbs, Robert Duckworth, Michael Cullis, Andrew Ciezarek, Philip McGauley, **Middle row:** Paul Barrett, Stephen Greenwood, Robert Walsh, Ashley Jeffries, John Worsh, Danny Liles, David Gardner-Chan, Andrew Bennett. **Front row:** Oliver Clarke, Roger Carins, Andrew Bennett, Rory Longton, Tom Fearnhead, Paul Watson, Andrew Moores. (Photo: Worsh family).



Readstone United have always encouraged the ladies to take an active part in the club. In 1990 Readstone Girls were formed under the leadership of Lesley Wilkinson and coached by Mick Finn and are pictured here at Gawthorpe High School. Back row: Jessica Padgett, Lucy Edwards, Catherine Laine, Caroline Bell, Victoria Hart, Joanna Laine, Kelly Baldwin, Jane Hindle, Helen Ashley, Lynsey Atkinson, Elizabeth Eaves. **Front row:** Kate Cullis, Gemma Baldwin, Sarah Howorth, Joanna Pickering, Rachel O'Connor, Victoria Lambert, Jennifer Taylor, Victoria Finn. (Photo: Author).

Hyndburn League, winning five out of their first nine fixtures. In September Tom Bartlett scored four goals and Peter Firth chipped in with a further two, as the team ran out 6 – 0 winners against Great Harwood. This result was the first of a number of emphatic wins, that included a 2 – 1 victory over Junior Clarets, with keeper Adam Kostilek in outstanding form. Unfortunately, the run came to an end with a disappointing 1 – 6 defeat at the hands of Merrie England. But things were looking good, Tom Bartlett was the league's leading scorer with 10 goals – most of them having been laid on by the impish Simon "Besty" Best – and Jamie Garner and Peter Firth had four each. Adam Kostilek also had the envious record of having saved every penalty awarded against him.

However, over in the Burnley League things weren't looking too good for the Under 13s. Goalkeeper Steve Clark received a broken wrist in a pre-season friendly at Read against Michelin, which was followed by heavy defeats in the first two league matches, scoring nil and conceding 12 goals. Come November things began to look up. A 10 – 1 win over Cliviger in the first round of the cup, saw two goals each for James Howorth, Andrew Booth, Howard Braithwaite and Dean Hitchen, and one a piece for Sam Marshall and Mark Hargreaves. This was followed by a 2 – 0 league victory over Marsden and Dean Hitchen scored both goals on this occasion.

Away from the boys' football, the Veterans held a return match



Phil Scarborough, centre, is pictured handing over the proceeds from the sponsored cycle ride to club treasurer, Geoff Lambert, left, and chairman, Clive Bennett, which he undertook with Brian Yeoman and Paul Haworth, in May. (Photo: Bennett family).

STRIKERS 1991/92



Right: Tom Bartlett, in white shirt and partly hidden by a defender, slots the ball past the keeper, in an Under 12s match against Great Harwood Rovers. Tom consistently scored goals for Readstone at all levels, and at the time of writing was putting them away for Clitheroe Town Reserve and Youth teams. (Photo: Yeoman family).



Left: Michael Jones attracts the attention of three Waterfoot Boys' defenders in an Accrington League Under 11s match. Alan Garner described "Spike" as a "nice lad" in an interview with a local newspaper, but to opposing teams he was a menace. (Photo: Garner family).



Right: It runs in the family! Sarah Howorth takes a leaf out of elder brother James' book to score a penalty, and also the deciding goal, in a game at Gawthorpe High School, in March 1992. (Photo: Author).



When it comes to putting the ball into the back of the net Readstone have never been short of lads who could pull the trigger – but as every manager knows the problem is giving them enough bullets!

Left: Dean Hitchen takes the ball around the Cliviger keeper, at Towneley Park, to give Readstone Under 13s a first half lead. (Photo: Author).

FIVE-A-SIDE TOURNAMENTS



Above: The first Tournament in 1991 on Read School Field. (Photo: Author).

Readstone Junior 5-a-side Tournaments from the early '90s



Above: Winners from the 1993 Tournament at Roefield. (Photo: Author).



Left: A Readstone team poses for the camera at the 1994 Tournament. (Photo: Clarke family).

against the Altham Ambulance Brigade but were convincingly beaten and then there was a Race Night at Read Cricket Club, with £330 being raised for club funds. On the fund raising scene there was also a 60s Disco at the Cricket Club and on 10 May, Paul Haworth, Phil Scarborough and Brian Yeoman took part in a sponsored cycle ride to Blackpool.

Club chairman, Clive Bennett, flagged the riders off, in a somewhat not too dissimilar ceremony to a Tour de France start, from outside the Stork Inn, at Simonstone, at 7.50 am. The going was good and they managed to reach the Tower by 10.30 am. After a short rest the riders set off back to Simonstone half an hour later and were back outside the Stork at 1.50 pm – just in time for last orders! The sponsored ride proved a great success and raised £460 for club funds.

The club also held a Christmas Party for the members at Padiham Pool, when both adults and children enjoyed a fun-filled splashing afternoon, which was followed by an equally enjoyable buffet and quiz in the fitness room.

Into the new year and back on the field, the Under 11s were still in contention in the Accrington League, but had fallen to third place, with one point behind Waterfoot Boys and West End United. There was no let up in the goals, however, with a 14 – 0 victory over St. Joseph's; an 8 – 3 win over Huncoat United; and a further 14 – 0 win over Rishton in the last game of the season. "Spikey" was in his element, notching up 54 goals in his first season for the club – a tremendous achievement. Unfortunately, their best wasn't good enough and they had to make do with third place, but because of their high league position they automatically qualified for the Accrington League's Consolation Cup. Once again, luck wasn't on their side and with the absence of top scorer "Spikey" Jones they were unable to overcome a strong Michelin Athletic team, losing 2 – 4 in extra time. Readstone's goals came from Mark Derbyshire and Danny Sharples and John Chesworth was named man of the match.

Over in the Hyndburn League, Readstone's Under 12s were battling hard. There were prominent wins against Darwen 1 – 0 and 6 – 0, with Tom Bartlett scoring five excellent goals. In the first match he could have scored another five, hitting the woodwork on two occasions and being denied on several more by an inform keeper, including a 15 yard volleyed blockbuster, which had it gone in would have been goal of the season. But instead the title of goal of the season went to Sheldon Salisbury, who hit a blistering 20 yard volley into the far top corner of the Junior Clarets' goal



Readstone United Under 11s, Accrington and District Boys' League, 1991/92. Back row: Phil Scarborough (coach), Stephen Dixon, Mark Fawcett, Mark French, Paul Sagar, Mark Derbyshire, Michael Jones, Gary Smith, Alan Garner (manager). Front row: Bevan Scarborough, Danny Sharples, Michael Garner, Adrian Hartley, Matthew Ward, John Chesworth. (Photo: Garner family).

in a hard fought 1 – 1 draw in the first round of the cup. The replay was equally hard and Readstone felt justifiably robbed as they fell to a last minute Clarets winner to knock them out of the competition.

The team worked hard throughout the rest of the season: Richard Lambert stood firm in defence; Firthy constantly dazzled the opposition with his wing play, which the manager likened to Finney and Matthews as time after time he hit the byeline; "Besty" and Peter Dugdale (Jonathan's younger brother) worked tirelessly in midfield; and in the 7 – 1 victory over Langho Town, Andrew Lambert turned in probably his best performance for Readstone whilst also getting his name on the scoresheet.

Martin McGauley's prophecy about his Under 10 team's learning curve began to come true after Christmas as they started winning their friendly matches. First they beat Michelin 4 – 1 then ran out easy 7 – 1 winners against Borrowdale United. And there were some promising players coming through too – Andrew Ciezarek, Andrew Kirk and Michael Garner. In the Under 9 age group there was Daniel Locke, Joe Marshall, Paul Barratt and the two Andrew Bennetts, one an outstanding goal-keeper, the other a wizard of the wing with a devastating left foot.

At the beginning of the season all who had watched the respective

Readstone's first cup

READSTONE went into its first cup final as underdogs. Brierfield Celtic had already won the championship and were looking to add the cup to complete what would have been a well-deserved double. Whether it was the atrocious conditions – rain had fallen steadily over the previous two days – which provided the impetus, or simply we were more up for it. on that spring evening Readstone set out with a determination to prove they were the equal, if not better, than any other team in the Burnley Towneley Youth League.

Readstone didn't get off to a good start, going a goal down within two minutes of the kick off, due to some slack defending, but as the half wore on a gradual confidence came over Readstone's game. In the 15th minute Howard Braithwaite broke down the right wing and fired in a low cross which flashed off the wet surface, beating the defence and falling to Michael Dalby. As Michael controlled the ball a Celtic defender upended him in the area. Penalty! Michael picked himself up and converted the spot kick, slotting the ball inside the Celtic keeper's left hand post.

The equalising goal spurred Readstone on. Further chances fell to Jonathan Dugdale, Dalby and Braithwaite. James Howorth had a free kick saved by the keeper and Dean Hitchen was unlucky to hit a post.

During the interval the Celtic management were obviously incensed to see how the match was developing and straight from the restart Celtic set about the Readstone defence with a vengeance. Wave after wave of Celtic attacks came in, but stout defending by Sam Marshall, Chris Eaves and Mark Hargreaves made sure the scores stayed level. Stephen Clark was having an outstanding game in goal saving everything Celtic through at him. And it was from one of these saves that led to Readstone taking the lead.

Celtic were committing more and more men forward in the hope of getting a goal but in doing so they started to leave holes in defence. Clarkie cut out a Celtic attack and kicked a hopeful ball down the middle of the field. As the ball fell into the centre circle, Jonathan Dugdale ran between two defenders,



We've won the cup! The Under 13s celebrate.

**Under 13s Duncan Reed Cup Final
30 April 1992
Lucas Sports Ground, Burnley
Brierfield Celtic 1 Readstone United 3**

controlled it and then outstripped them both for pace. The Celtic keeper came out to narrow his angles, but "Duggie," at speed, feigned to the right before taking the ball to his left and side footed the ball into an empty net.

Ten minutes later the game was all over. In an almost carbon copy of Readstone's second goal, "Duggie" again found himself in a similar situation, he pushed the ball between two defenders, headed for goal, rounded the keeper and seized his second goal.

Throughout the match the rain fell incessantly, but nothing could dampen Readstone's spirit. Two substitutions by the manager provided fresh legs for a tired defence, and as the dark fell over the stadium the referee blew the final whistle to record a famous victory.

Team: Stephen Clark, Sam Marshall, James Howorth, capt., Mark Hargreaves, Chris Eaves, Gareth Houghton, Howard Braithwaite, John Cooper, Jonathan Dugdale, Dean Hitchen, Michael Dalby. Subs: Andrew Booth, Eddie Wood.



Michael Dalby fires in the equaliser from a penalty.



"Duggie" puts Readstone 3 - 1 up and it's all over.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“ WHEN the referee takes you to one side before the kick off and states there will be no extra time due to the weather situation, just penalties if required, you are aware the conditions are not exactly ideal for playing football, never mind a cup final!

April the 30th therefore, was perhaps the coldest and wettest day of 1992, but it was also the day that Readstone United Under 13s won a cup final that many had considered a formality for the already league winners, Brierfield Celtic.

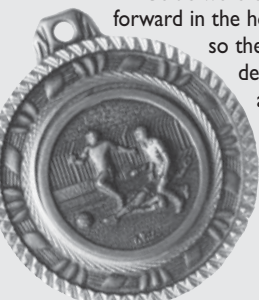
After conceding a goal in the very first minute, it seemed that perhaps they may be correct, but never in my experience of junior football, had I witnessed such determination and endeavour that I witnessed that particular evening.

It was undoubtedly a team effort from all thirteen players in a game full of memories: the visions of tired legs; skilful goals; missed chances and great saves; but also a growth in confidence and ability in a team, whom had begun the season so poorly, developing before our eyes, to out class the league winners.

I don't remember the rain, the long final ten minutes; I remember the cup, the muddy smiles, but most of all, the silence in our opponents dressing room after the game.

I remember the magic of cup football!☺☺

– Paul Howorth, Under 13s manager.



Readstone teams play felt little surprise that the Under 11 and 12 teams would be challenging for honours at the close, but it was the Under 13s who came up on the outside and caught the attention.

A 1 – 1 draw with Brierfield Celtic in January started the successful run. This was followed with a 5 – 0 victory over Cliviger, Jonathan Dugdale went nap scoring all five goals: a 6 – 2 win against Michelin, with Dean Hitchen notching a hat-trick; and a further 2 – 0 win over Marsden with captain James Howorth being nominated man of the match. In the course of this successful run Sam Marshall and “Duggie” were selected for the Burnley and Hyndburn town representative teams.

But it was in the cup that Readstone found their greatest success. Following their impressive win over Cliviger, they drew Marsden in the semi-finals. The lads were elated with the draw having beaten Marsden twice in the league and thought the match would be walkover. However, this was not to be. Twice, Readstone had to come from going a goal behind before Michael Dalby fired them into the lead providing a platform for a great 5 – 2 victory. The other scorers were Braithwaite, Dugdale and Hitchen (2).

And so to the final on 30 April at the Lucas Sports Ground, Burnley, against Brierfield Celtic, who were looking to add a cup final victory to their championship crown.

Readstone went into the match as the underdogs but came out 3 – 1 winners thanks to some outstanding individual performances and a team who lifted themselves in response to their managers’ coaching and tactical skills.

As the 1991/2 season came to a close there was also league recognition for another Readstone team – the Under 11s. Michael Jones completed his campaign on a high when he was awarded the Accrington & District Boys’ League’s “Player of the Year” trophy, after scoring 52 goals.

In addition the team also came out with an unexpected trophy – the league’s Sportsmanship Award. Out of a possible 26 marks Readstone collected a record 23. “It’s brilliant,” said manager, Alan Garner, in an interview with the *Burnley Express*. “All I’ve wanted all season is for the lads to pick up a trophy – they really deserved it.”

If the award was a surprise to the team, there was an even greater surprise for Alan – as he and Phil Scarborough were awarded “Official of the Year.” A just and well deserved reward for an outstanding season.

5 The ‘San Siro Stadium’

1992-1993



THE LOCAL news coverage of the Under 13s cup win and the attractive football being played by the other teams in their respective leagues generated a great deal of interest in Readstone, and by the start of the 1992-3 many local children, especially at the younger end, were queuing up to join Readstone United.

Read School Field was far too small to accommodate all these youngsters with as many as 60 children turning up on Saturday mornings for training sessions. In response the committee made enquiries with the local parish council and the Ribble Valley Borough Council with regard to extra land. Unfortunately, there was none available, that is, however, until a conversation took place one evening at the Constitutional Club, between a committee member and local farmer, Mr Philip Hanson.



Readstone United Under 8s, 1992/93, pictured at the “San Siro” (Read Flats). Back row: Andrew Moores, Michael Fox, Andrew Bennett, Roger Carins, Steven Greenwood, Rory Longton. Front row: Philip Greenwood, Howard Dandy, Tom Fearnhead, Adam Nuttall, Ashley Jeffries. Like their fellow professionals, a line up of their impressive vehicles appear in the background! (Photo: Fox family).



Readstone United Under 10s, 1992/93. Now here is a team judging by the pose obviously means business – don't mess with our defence! Back row: Daniel Locke, Paul Watson, Andrew Jeffries, Dominic Kaye, Grant Hollander, Andrew Bennett. Front row: Craig Brown, David Jaggs, Oliver Clarke, Andrew Bennett, Joseph Marshall, Andrew Stubbs. (Photo: Clarke family).

Philip owned land on the south side of Whalley Road and was prepared to let the club use one of his fields at Read Flats, opposite the drive to Read Hall, as a pitch for the older players, as long as we didn't mind sharing it with the sheep!

The offer was promptly reported back to the committee and the following weekend a delegation was despatched to the Flats to assess its potential. In reality Read Flats was a meadow, but a meadow with possibilities, and after considerable discussion the committee decided to take up Philip's offer and set about turning the field into a football pitch. Over the summer months a lot of manpower was used extracting rubble, rolling the field, cutting the grass, and laying hardcore for car parking. Alan Spence was able to persuade Castle Cement to part with a Portakabin for changing facilities, and a new set of goalposts were constructed and erected. By the start of the season the pitch was ready for play, and in recognition of all their hard work the committee affectionately renamed it the "San Siro Stadium" – unofficially, of course.

Prior to work commencing on the pitch the club applied for planning permission which we understood would be a formality. However, this was

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...



“ A SEASONAL cold December day between Christmas and New Year was the fixture date for this exciting match between Barrowford Celtic and Readstone. However, it was touch and go as to whether it would be played. The referee heeded the strong plea made by Readstone and decided to give it a go, although Celtic were rather reluctant to play.

Quick thinking and exhilarating action was required plus the implementation of a tactical playing strategy due to the hard pitch and a delicate change of footwear from boots to trainers. The management support on the sidelines wrapped up warm and had the difficult job of convincing the lads that it was safe to play and to get on and play with a positive approach. The position in the league was fairly tight with both teams in the top four.

As the game progressed there was some good football by both teams, initially Readstone were



Roger Haythornthwaite – “pounced on to a loose ball, controlled it well, turned quickly and fired the ball into the back of the Celtic net.”

slightly in command and midway through the first half Tom Little chased a long through ball with really no hope of catching it. This looked simple for the goal-keeper to collect when he went down as if poleaxed.

Not a player was within 10 metres – Oscar winning stuff – shrills of delight were heard from the Readstone supporters but the opposition were not amused. The decision of Mr Burns, the referee, and Mr Pilkington, the league secretary, was to continue with the game.

Play continued with Readstone now getting on top. Tom Little followed up another long ball and with no hesitation slotted the ball home to put us in front. Growing with confidence

Readstone really started to play well with Scarborough and Garner controlling midfield. Haythornthwaite and Jones went close but the Celtic keeper was in good form. As half time approached Celtic came back to put United under pressure but the score stood at Celtic 0 Readstone 1.

The response to the beginning of the second half was similar to that of the first. Celtic created more pressure on the Readstone defence, but some outstanding goalkeeping by Hartley with a string of fine saves to keep Celtic at bay. Readstone fired back with more attacking football. However, their efforts were thwarted when Celtic broke away and drew level with a forceful goal.

The game opened up with end to end football by both teams, this was really exciting stuff as the conditions were more comparable to those of Torville and Dean, we were waiting for the triple axle! Entering the final 10 minutes it looked as though both teams would

have to settle for a draw. Not so, the Readstone supporters exercised their vocal chords to the full and encouraged the lads to the end. The ball bounced around the edge of the Celtic penalty area, like a pin ball machine.

Haythornthwaite pounced on to a loose ball, controlled it well, turned quickly and fired the ball into the back of the Celtic net. As the game entered the last few minutes Celtic put more pressure on the Readstone defence, trying for that all important equaliser, but to no avail. As the final whistle blew the score was Celtic 1 Readstone 2.

A great end to a great match and to celebrate this all important victory the Readstone players were whisked away to Padiham Town Hall to join the Readstone Christmas Party. – Phil Scarborough.



FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“ MY FAVOURITE Readstone memory was at Under 13 level. We were lying third in the league and as the season drew to a close we had to play a very strong Merrie England side who were unbeaten all season.

It was generally considered throughout the league that Merrie England had poached all the best players from the other teams and were a feeder club for Blackburn Rovers. We had lost one of our best midfield players, Simon Best, due to injury, and a couple of the other players were unavailable, so Steve Neary and I had quite a lot of work to do.

The team that day was Kostilek, Yeoman, Lambert, Makin, Bartlett, Bennett, Hart, Derbyshire, Firth, Whaites, Roberts.

Merrie were full of confidence and very impressive in their matching tracksuits and attacked us from the first whistle. Readstone held out and started to grow in confidence and at half time were still level at 0 – 0.

During the interval Merrie were given a real roasting by their manager – they were not used to being held. But worse was to come for

them. Shortly into the second half Andrew Whaites hit an absolute blockbuster from outside the penalty area –

1 – 0 Readstone. Merrie then pressed us hard and got quite dirty.

All our lads gave 100 per cent, with players like Lee Derbyshire not renowned for his tackling, chasing half the length of the field to thwart the opposition's attacks.

With only a couple of minutes left Merrie's centre forward burst through one on one with our 'keeper, Adam Kostilek. Adam dived at his feet but the ball spun loose to another forward, who chipped it over Adam for a certain equaliser.

But Adam was on his feet backpeddling; he dived up and backwards and got his fingers to the ball to tip it over the crossbar – a tremendous save from a tremendous 'keeper! The field erupted, it was like Readstone had won the league and the cup competition.☺

– Brian Yeoman.



Readstone United Under 13s, 1992/93. Back row: Peter Dugdale, Damian Hart, Andrew Whaites, Adam Kostilek, Richard Lambert, Duncan Bennett, Simon Best. Front row: Peter Firth, Gavin Yeoman, Sheldon Salisbury, Lee Derbyshire, Nathan Rogan, Tom Bartlett. (Photo: Yeoman family).

not to be and throughout the season there was to be a constant to and fro between the club and the RVBC. The RVBC objected to the use of the meadow as a football field on grounds of access to the site. Unfortunately, the field opened up on to the very busy A671 Whalley-Padiham trunk road on a dangerous bend which necessitated a slip road. The cost of such a construction was estimated somewhere in excess of £30,000! As the land would never belong to the club, it was a pointless venture to even consider attempting to raise such a sum, And so it was with a great deal of sadness that the 1992-3 season was the only one Readstone was to play at the lamented "San Siro."

On the playing side all the teams moved up an age group. Paul Haworth took his cup winning team into the Hyndburn League's Under 14s group, assisted by Malcolm Howorth, David Marshall and the author; Steve Neary and Brian Yeoman continued with the Under 13s; Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough transferred from the Accrington to the Hyndburn League as Under 12s; and Martin MaGauley made his competitive entrance in the Accrington League with an Under 11s team.

The committee also decided to enter a second Under 13s team in the Burnley Towneley League due to the expanding squad and the lack of places in the Hyndburn team. Duncan Bell and Geoff Lambert took control of this "B" team. At the younger end Paul Clarke and Brian Jeffries joined the committee and took control of the Under 9s and 8s with Peter Stubbs and Chris Ward.

In conjunction with the new pitch the club also took another notable step ordering complete new kits for the five competitive teams. Tony French, brought along a selection of kits to a committee meeting in July and a two tone blue diamond design was chosen, and very smart it looked on the team photographs.

The season kicked off in September with some good wins. The Under 14s had an exciting match at Barden on a very blustery day against Borrowdale United and were 5 – 1 up at half time. With the wind blowing against them in the second half things were not as easy and just managed to hang on for a 5 – 4 victory. The first competitive league match at the "San Siro" was an Under 14s game against Great Harwood Juniors, with Readstone coming out 3 – 1 winners. The local newspaper records Andrew Booth as having the distinction of scoring the first goal, with Howard Braithwaite and Dean Hitchen getting the other two.

Steve Neary's Under 13s also started well with three successive wins

over Brierfield Celtic, Darwen United and Langho Juniors. In the Darwen match Tom Bartlett scored twice in a 3 – 2 victory with Duncan Bennett chipping in the third following a determined run. Tom snatched a hat-trick in the 5 – 3 win over Langho and Besty and Nathan “Josh” Rogan also got their names on the scoresheet. In November there were two high scoring draws – first a 4 – 4 scoreline with St. Josephs, Accrington, and then a thrilling 5 – 5 draw with Borrowdale United when Peter Firth found the back of the net on two occasions.

Whilst the Under 13s Hyndburn team was prospering things were not going quite as well for Duncan Bell’s Under 13 Burnley League team. Readstone found themselves on the wrong side of a 12 – 0 scoreline in their first game against Knuzden Juniors. This was followed with successive defeats against Colne Boys, 1 – 2, Stephen Dixon scored for Readstone, and 0 – 5 to Classic United in an extremely ill-tempered match, due to the League’s insistence of combining the under 13 and 14 age groups together because the 14s group had so few teams. With problems such as this there was little doubt that it was going to be a long season for Duncan and Geoff and the team.

The transition from the Accrington to the Hyndburn League didn’t trouble Alan Garner’s team too much, although they did lose their first game 0 – 3. However, Alan and Phil quickly put this early disappointment behind them and followed it up with a 5 – 2 win against Victoria Boys and a 6 – 1 thrashing of Great Harwood. It was no great surprise that before long they were challenging for top place. “Spike” was once more amongst the goals and with a formidable midfield of Thomas Little, Ian Davies, Danny Sharples and Roger Haythornthwaite, Readstone were on fire.

There was also a buzz about the Under 11s who were playing on Saturday mornings in the Accrington League. Readstone acquitted themselves well with a 12 – 0 trouncing of Rishton with a hat-trick for Robert Holroyd and two goals each for Andy Bennett, Michael Garner, Philip McGauley and Bevan Scarborough. Andrew Kirk chipped in with the other goal. This big win was soon followed by a 11 – 4 thrashing of Huncoat United, and on this occasion Andrew Ciezarek was the star scoring six goals.

Due to his ability and age Bevan Scarborough found himself in demand with both the 11s and 12s. In November playing for the 11s on a Saturday morning he scored the opening goal in a 3 – 3 draw against West End and



Readstone United Under 11s, Accrington and District Boys’ League, 1992/93. Back row: Paul Worsh (coach), Andrew Duckworth, Andrew Kirk, Andrew Ciezarek, Robert Holroyd, Thomas Almond, James Drury, Michael Garner, Martin McGauley (manager). Front row: Robert Duckworth, Andrew Bennett, Danny Sharples, Philip McGauley, Bevan Scarborough, Christian Cavanagh. (Photo: Author).



Readstone Under 11 striker, Andrew Ciezarek fires in a volley past the Brierfield Celtic ‘keeper in an Accrington League match at Read School Field, September 1992. (Photo: Author).



A goal at the “San Siro!” Sam Marshall (on ground between posts) has just seen his shot saved by the Borrowdale United ‘keeper, but the ball has spilled out to Dean Hitchen, who has followed up with a cracking right foot volley. The Portakabin which was donated by Castle Cement can be seen in the background – not even the great A.C. or Inter could boast such luxuries as this. (Photo: Author).

then followed it up the next day with a goal for the 12s in their win over Great Harwood.

As the season progressed the Under 8, 9 and 10 teams, who were too young to play competitive league football, were turning in some excellent performances. In an Under 10s friendly match against Michelin, Daniel Locke scored a hat-trick in the 10 – 0 victory. Whilst down in the Under 8s, Howard Dandy and Roger Carins found themselves on the scoresheet as Readstone beat Belvedere 3 – 0 on the school field. The Under 9s were performing well too, as Readstone once again trounced Michelin, this time by 6 – 2. Daniel Locke scored another hat-trick with Andy Bennett and Oliver Clarke getting the other goals.

The Under 14s had become a formidable side and by Christmas were top of the table. The addition of Liam Carter to the striking partnership of Dugdale and Hitchen was awesome with goals coming from all over the field. Liam’s mate, Robert Devine, was also bringing a feeling of stability to the back four, with Gareth Houghton in outstanding form. Gareth’s ability was soon recognised, with Gavin Ward selecting him for the Hyndburn Inter-League team.

Manager Paul Haworth enthused over one particular match against Turton as “the best performance he had ever seen from a Readstone team,”

when the lads playing with only 10 men, due to injuries and Inter-League absentees, recorded a memorable 3 – 1 victory.

Away from the football the committee held another successful disco, raising £105 for club funds.

After Christmas results slipped a bit and most of our teams fell just out of contention, but there was no shortage of goals. In March, Dugdale scored his 27th goal of the season for the Under 14s in a 4 – 2 win over Bank Hall, whilst Thomas Little scored three for the Under 12s against Great Harwood Rovers.

The Under 13s Hyndburn League team had an excellent 2 – 1 win over Junior Clarets which moved them up to third. Neil Cartledge played well at the back, but it was Tom Bartlett who stole the headlines and got the man of the match award. Duncan Bennett ran a close second though, hitting the winning goal with a devastating free kick from 20 yards. But if this win was good the 1 – 0 victory over Merrie England was outstanding. Andrew Whaites got the all-important goal, and together with some excellent work by goalkeeper, Adam Kostilek ensured Readstone came away with the points at the end of the day.

But as the end of the season approached it was Martin McGauley’s Under 11s who caught the eye. Finishing runners-up in the Accrington League’s table entitled them to take part in the Consolation Cup, and on the 6 May they took on Clitheroe Wolves, at the Great Harwood Showground. Readstone ran out 1 – 0 winners thanks to a goal 12 minutes from time by Bevan Scarborough. An unexpected but fitting way to end the season.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

**Under 11s Accrington Consolation Cup Final 6 May 1993
Great Harwood Showground
Clitheroe Wolves 0 Readstone United 1**

“ A GOAL from the prolific Bevan Scarborough, with 12 minutes left on the clock, was enough to deservedly take the Consolation Cup to the Readstone United trophy cabinet.

Playing on Great Harwood's Showground, the two teams gave everything as they battled for cup glory and, as both managers were quick to emphasise afterwards, football was the real winner, with the game being contested in a sporting way.

Two sturdy defences kept the goalmouth action to a limit in the early stages until the Wolves got the first real breakthrough. The ball was hit long and Jamie Stoddart chased it and got there just before the Readstone 'keeper Thomas Almond. As Stoddart attempted to go round him, he clashed with the goalkeeper and the referee awarded the free kick 25 yards out.

Clitheroe's Oliver Cross hammered in the resulting dead ball, but Almond did well to save the shot, gathering it at the second attempt. The Wolves came close again when Tony Middleton crossed with Almond out of his nets, but Philip McGauley cleared his lines well before a Clitheroe player could get there.

Right on the stroke of half time McGauley was in the thick of the action at the other end, when the referee awarded a free kick on the edge of Clitheroe's penalty box. It was McGauley who hit a fine shot over the wall, which the goalkeeper failed to hold. However, the referee blew for half time as the ball was in mid flight and the goal was disallowed.

Almond, the Readstone 'keeper, was called in to action straight from the restart, saving brilliantly from Stoddart. But as the half wore on it was Readstone who began to take control of the game and Ciezerak, Scarborough and Paul Barrett – the man of the match – all tested Wallsworth, the Wolves goalkeeper.

The all-important goal came with 12 minutes left. When the Wolves failed to clear their lines, Bevan Scarborough punished the hesitancy by smashing the ball high into the net from 8 yards.

Readstone continued to go forward and in the closing minutes were unfortunate not to double their lead with shots from Ciezerak and right back James Drury, following a 40 yard run.

This match was a thrilling end to a great season and showed just how far the lads had come from the 0 – 25 thrashing they had received in their first match two years before – they had certainly mastered their learning curve. – Martin McGauley.



Readstone's Consolation Cup winning team. Back row: Martin McGauley (manager), John Worsh, Andrew Duckworth, Andrew Kirk, Thomas Almond, Robert Duckworth, James Drury, Michael Garner, Andrew Ciezerak, Paul Worsh (coach). Front row: Paul Barrett, Christian Kavanagh, Philip McGauley, Danny Sharples, Bevan Scarborough, David Gardner-Chan. (Photo: Worsh family).

6 This is Roefield

1993-1994



THE 1993/94 season started with a degree of sadness; the loss of the “San Siro” was a major setback to the club. The committee had put a great deal of hard work and finance into the project and there had been a high level of expectancy, but without the necessary planning permission there was no other course than to vacate the field and look for an alternative pitch.

The situation with regard to available land in Read and Simonstone hadn't changed in the 12 months so the club were forced to make enquiries further afield. After some intensive discussions with the Council it was agreed we should lease a number of pitches at Roefield Recreational Field, Edisford Bridge, Clitheroe. At least with Roefield we didn't have to sweep the changing rooms after matches with our friend Trevor around, but really, it was no comparison to the “San Siro” and the pride of knowing it was your own pitch you were preparing for the next match.

The demise of the “San Siro” wasn't the only loss during the close season; on the managerial side Paul Haworth retired, due to the imminent arrival of a new addition to his family; and Duncan Bell left due to work commitments.

The author took over the Under 15s, with the assistance of Malcolm Howorth and David Marshall; whilst Steve Neary and Brian Yeoman continued with the Under 14s in the Hyndburn League. Over in the Burnley League Geoff Beckett took over from Duncan, but unfortunately, due to an illness in the family had to relinquish the post early on in the season, so Geoff Lambert stood in at short notice. Further down the pecking order, Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough moved up with the Under 13s; but Martin McGauley decided to keep his team at Under 11 level in the Accrington League due to many of his players being under age; the older lads joining Alan and Phil's squad. This left the club without an Under 12s team.

At Under 10 level Paul Clarke continued as manager and Brian Jeffries took control of the Under 9s and 8s.

On reflection, the 1993/94 season wasn't that successful, when compared to the two previous seasons, but it started off well enough. The



Readstone United Under 15s, 1993/94, with the Pendle Trophy which they won in a pre-season competition. Back row: Jonathan Dugdale, Warren Jackson, Liam Carter, Chris Eaves, Stephen Clark, James Howorth, Richard Alston, Gareth Houghton. Front row: Andrew Blackledge, John Cooper, Sam Marshall, Andrew Anderson, Eddie Woods. (Photo: Author).



Liam Carter rises above the Langho Juniors defence on a very hard pitch to head the first goal in Readstone's 3 – 0 win and help clinch the Pendle Trophy. (Photo: Author).

authors' Under 15s won a pre-season friendly tournament which involved Classic United, Langho Juniors and Michelin. Readstone won all their matches, defeating Classic 2 – 1, Michelin 5 – 4 and Langho 3 – 0, showing some stylish football in the process. For their efforts they were awarded the Pendle Trophy, which was presented by David Richardson, the Hyndburn League's president, before their league match with Huncoat United, at Roefield.



Unfortunately, the pre-season success didn't spill over into the league, as they threw away a first half 3 – 0 lead with a Jonathan Dugdale hat-trick, in their opening match against Darwen Town. The final score ended up 3 – 3 with Readstone just hanging on for a point. It took another two matches, both defeats, before the lads got their game together. There then followed eight straight wins which took them to second place in the league. However, two defeats at the hands of Junior Clarets ended the run and the team slipped down to a mid-table position.

In the middle of this run was a tremendous cup match against Darwen which was played under atrocious weather conditions. Readstone were under the cosh throughout the match and found themselves 1 – 3 down with literally minutes to spare, when Liam Carter fired in two tremendous goals to send the match into extra time. Unfortunately, two bad injuries to Gareth Houghton and Chris Eaves left Readstone a weakened side, which contributed to them conceding two further goals to go out 3 – 5.

It was a similar story for the two other Readstone teams competing in the Hyndburn League – the Under 14s and 13s. Both had moments of glory gaining second and third positions, but like the 15s neither could sustain a consistent run that would bring home the silverware at the end of the campaign.

Tom Bartlett continued to score goals for the Under 14s, notably in the games against Burnley Boys' Club – a 4 – 1 win – and the 6 – 0 win over St. Anne's, scoring a hat-trick on both occasions. In recognition of his goal scoring achievements, Tom, along with Adam Kostilek and Duncan Bennett, was selected to represent the Hyndburn League.

The weather during January was abysmal and many matches were cancelled, however, the 14s managed one match against Stanhill Rovers

which really should have been postponed. The game ended 1 – 1 and apart from the lads slipping and sliding all over the pitch, it was not so much the quality of football but more the antics of the club chairman which caught the attention and will be forever remembered as the day Clive nearly caught hypothermia. It was not so much the freezing weather which brought the condition on, but more due to him forgetting to warm his soup before putting it in his flask!

In contrast to the other two sides Alan Garner's Under 13s started off well with wins over Huncoat United, 3 – 0; Langho Juniors, 4 – 0, and Barrowford Celtic, 2 – 1, but unfortunately, lost their way with a poor run during mid-season. But their were some sparkling individual performances, in particular, from Thomas Little and Adrian Hartley.

Thomas frequently found the back of the opposition's net on several occasions, and by coincidence it was usually when David Pilkington, the Hyndburn League's secretary, was officiating. From the day he scored a hat-trick in the 3 – 1 defeat of Borrowdale United, Thomas looked on Mr Pilkington in a different light and considered him to be his lucky mascot!

Adrian was also showing great promise, both as an outfield player and as a goalkeeper. He was approached by the Blackburn Rovers School of Excellence after Readstone's 1 – 0 quarter final cup win over Blue Star, and on several occasions was watched by scouts from the local league clubs. Adrian also had the distinction of being the first Readstone 'keeper to score a goal in a league match. This feat was accomplished with a header in the 6 – 0 thrashing of West End United. The other scorers that day were Ian Davies, John Chesworth, Matthew Dobie, and the irrepressible, "Spikey" Jones.

The cost of running all these teams meant a constant drain on club funds which in turn meant the committee were continuously looking for ways to raise money. The odd stall at a jumble sale brought in a pound or two but nothing in the quantity which the club required to fulfil all its commitments. It was Tony French who came up with the best idea and at the same time proved to be the most lucrative – a Sportsman's Dinner.

Tony, with the aid of Mike King, organised our first dinner on Thursday, 21 October, 1993 which was held at the Dunkenhall Hotel, at Clayton-le-Moors. Over 200 guests enjoyed the evening, with former Clarets' favourite, Paul Fletcher, recalling some of his more humorous moments of his distinguished footballing career. The event was a great success and raised over £1,500. This welcome increase in income meant

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...



“ I TOOK over from Paul Haworth as manager of the Under 15s in August 1993. We had a great run midway through the season winning seven matches in a row and by early December were second in the league behind Junior Clarets. Unfortunately, due to some poor results and postponements by Christmas we had fallen out of contention.

But we still kept plugging away and on 7 January met Blue Star, at Roefield, who needed full points from the game to overhaul Junior Clarets and go top. However, Readstone were in no mood to give away any points and the game was played at a fast, exhilarating pace with very little give between either team.

Midway through the first half Readstone took the lead directly from a Liam Carter inswinging corner which completely deceived the Blue Star keeper. Within two minutes of Readstone scoring, Blue Star had equalised through a



Sam Marshall – a utility player with a great turn of pace who could play defence or attack. Sam attended Gawthorpe School and played on numerous occasions for the Burnley Town Team and is now a regular in the Read United first team.

volley by Martin Rimmer who gave our keeper, Stephen Clark, little hope of saving it. Blue Star continued to pressure us right up to half time with little reward. After the interval, against the run of play, Readstone regained the lead with a spectacular 25 yard shot by Jonathan Dugdale, which once again took the Blue Star keeper completely by surprise. But Blue Star came back with a vengeance and within five minutes had levelled the score, this time with a goal by Hall.

With confidence high and being urged on by their manager, Mick Dalby (who coincidentally,

is the father of Michael, one of Readstone's original players), Blue Star felt they had victory in their grasp, until the 68th minute when Clarkie made a superb save at the feet of Rimmer. Gathering up the ball he picked out Duggie unmarked on the right with a long throw. Duggie interchanged passes with a limping Chris Eaves, who was about to be substituted, before setting off on a blistering 60 yard run beating Masterman and leaving two other Blue Star defenders in his wake. Duggie drew the keeper and slotted the ball home inside the nearside post. If the BBC Match Of The Day cameras had been at Roefield that day, Alan Hansen and Des Lynam would have been gushing about the goal into the next century!

Blue Star, however, didn't have the same admiration for Duggie's wonder goal and came back with all guns blazing. But Readstone's defence held firm with some excellent defending by Anthony Burns, Robert Devine and Sam

Marshall. The pressure was intense and five minutes before the final whistle Readstone conceded an equaliser. Not content with a draw and sensing a winner was on the cards, Blue Star pushed up on Readstone, but were caught on the rebound in the last minute, when Sam Marshall broke from defence down the right flank. His centre picked out Liam Carter on the edge of the D, who caught it with a sweet left footed volley, that slammed against a post, but alas fell harmlessly behind for a goal kick. If only ... the ref blew for full time and the match ended in a creditable 3–3 draw

Blue Star deservedly went on to win the cup competition that season but failed to clinch the double, losing out by one point to Junior Clarets. I'm sure that Readstone, and Duggie in particular, on that murky January afternoon were a major contributing factor to them losing out on the championship.☹ – David Eaves.



FROM THE DEFENCE...

“ I PLAYED in many memorable matches for Readstone during Steve Neary’s managership, against such teams as Merrie England, Barrowford Celtic and Junior Clarets to name but a few. One favourite match I recall was against Borrowdale United which took place during the Under 13 season at the “San Siro” – otherwise known as Read Flats.

Earlier in the season we had drawn 5 – 5 in a real thriller and we were looking forward to another competitive match.

Having removed the cow pats from the field the match got under way and fate immediately took a hand – Lee Derbyshire twisted an ankle and had to leave the field. Substitute Peter Firth came on and instantly made an impact by opening the scoring, and just before half time adding a superb second, which was just reward for the quality football we had been playing.

Shortly after the interval we were awarded a free kick just over the half way line, and Steve shouted across for me to take it. I carefully positioned the ball and gave my dad a wink, who was watching from the touchline, before hitting it with all my might.

The ball sailed through the air and ended up in the top corner of the Borrowdale net. What a goal! The best goal I ever scored from that range.

Towards the end Tom Bartlett made it 4 – 0 following a fine solo run to round off a great

team display and a convincing victory.

That season we finished fourth in the league and I was awarded the “Player of the Year” trophy, an award which I was very honoured to accept. Sadly, this was to be my last season with Readstone United. Since then, I have played for Barrowford Celtic and Brierfield Celtic (when we won the league). I am presently playing for Junior Clarets Under 18s in the Blackburn League.

Looking back I remember one particular humorous moment when I was chosen for the Pendle Town Under 11 team. We were having our first pre-match team talk and the manager asked each of us which Sunday league club we played for. The majority of the lads were from Barrowford Celtic, Colne Clarets or Barnoldswick United. Upon making my announcement I was from Readstone they all looked at me with blank faces, saying who!

Well they may not have heard of us then but they certainly have now.

In September I am hoping to go to university and take a degree in Sports Science, but no matter where my career leads, I shall always recall, with much affection, the happy years I spent playing for Readstone United.☺

– Richard Lambert, Under 11-13 player, 1990-1993.



the pressure was off and the club members could concentrate on the football.

Back on the pitch, Martin McGauley’s Under 11s started the season with an air of optimism following the previous season’s cup win. They had some good results: an 8 – 3 win over St. Anne’s, in which Andy Bennett scored a hat-trick; and the return fixture when Readstone won 9 – 0. On this occasion Andy scored another hat-trick, with Paul Barrett and Daniel Locke scoring two, and John Worsh and Philip McGauley getting one goal each.

Sadly, their success did not continue. A major factor was that they had

become too successful! Playing on Saturday mornings usually meant a clash with school matches, and quite often Martin found his squad severely depleted with many of his best players missing. “It was a bit of a Jekyll and Hyde situation,” explained Martin, “when we had a full squad available we were invincible and could beat anyone, but as soon as the school matches started we just couldn’t compete.” Unfortunately, this blowing hot and cold left them in no man’s land and contributed to the team ending up with a mid-table position at the end of the season.

Down at the younger end of the club’s ranks the Under 10s had to be content with friendly matches, due to there being no league for that particular age group. Although a number of players did help out with the



Readstone United Under 10s, 1993/94, who won the Barden 5-a-side Tournament. Back row: Dominic Kaye, Andy Bennett (striker), David Jaggs, Paul Barrett. Front: Joseph Marshall, Andrew Bennett (goalkeeper) and Oliver Clarke. (Photo: Clarke family).

Under 11s which proved invaluable in preparing the team for the following season.

There was also a number of additions to Paul Clarke's squad – notably Martyn Thompson, the eldest of the four Thompson boys. All the boys have played for Readstone, and the club has become a major part of their parents' lives. For Diane and Pat Thompson most of their weekend is spent transporting their lads to such exotic locations as Trawden, Oswaldtwistle and the distant Maden Rec. at Bacup!

The highlight of the season for the Under 10s, however, was the victory in the Barden 5-a-side competition in April. The squad consisted of Dominic Kaye, Andrew Bennett (striker), Andy Bennett (goalkeeper), Paul Barrett, Oliver Clarke, David Jaggs and Joseph Marshall. They lost their first game, but progressed to the quarter finals as second in the league. They then despatched Brierfield Celtic in the quarter finals, Junior Clarets in the semis and faced Michelin in the final.

The final match was tight with both teams equally matched. The final score was 1 – 1 and went into extra time, when both teams scored a further goal. It was down to a penalty shoot-out to decide the winner, and extremely nerve-racking for both players and spectators. Dominic Kaye, Paul Barrett and Andy Bennett all converted their spot kicks in confident style, but it was Andrew Bennett, the goalkeeper, who became hero of the hour saving the very last penalty.

At the end of the season the club decided to resurrect its own 5-a-side tournament, with the author taking over the organisational role from John Hill. The event was held over the third weekend of June at Roefield with 48 teams taking part in an exciting competition.

Coun. Kate Hodgkinson, the Mayor of Ribble Valley, opened the Tournament, and entered into it in fine style, by kicking off a Burnley v Rovers' Veterans match. It was great to see again, such former stars at Derek Scott, Kevin Hird, Vince O'Keefe, Noel Brotherston and David Miller, who only the previous week had played at Wembley for Stockport County, in a Third Division play-off match, entertaining the youngsters and their parents. At the end of the weekend, Nathan Peel, a Clitheroe lad who had just signed for the Clarets, presented the trophies to the winning teams.

Once again, the event ran extremely well, establishing the competition as an annual fixture in the local junior football calendar, and placing another feather into Readstone's cap.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...



“ A GLORIOUS sunny day at Roefield in February 1994 was the scene for the Readstone Under 13s to take part in their first quarter final match against arguably the best side in the league – Blue Star.

Readstone were third in the league, but with several players carrying injuries the management team were more than a little concerned.

Readstone won the toss and chose to kick down the slight slope. After five or 10 minutes fencing Blue Star started to control midfield, but with Danny Sharples and Roger Haythornthwaite tackling like tigers and the uncompromising Matty Ward and Mark Derbyshire in central defence they made little impression on the Readstone defence.

The Readstone forwards found the going difficult and when they did make the odd break, Tom Little and Stephen Dixon found they were usually outnumbered by the Blue Star defence. However, the first chance fell to Readstone following a long ball out of defence which Little latched on to, but he was quickly closed down and could only hit a weak shot at the 'keeper.

This spurred Blue Star on, who came back with a vengeance, and a deflected shot won them a corner. The corner resulted in a strong header but Adrian Hartley saved easily.

With the score at 0 – 0 both teams welcomed the half time break and a chance to take some liquid.

Blue Star started the second half in a very positive mood swarming over the Readstone defence. Our midfield seemed to be constantly chasing shadows, whilst the defence was continually making heroic tackles. The Readstone defence started to wilt under the pressure and with it came the first real chance of a goal. A screaming Blue Star shot headed for the top right hand corner of the home goal, but as the visitors hands went up to salute what would have been a great goal, the Readstone 'keeper, Adrian Hartley, made a brilliant save tipping the ball round the post. At times like this you take anything that's given and the resulting goal kick given by the referee was indeed a bonus not expected.

The Readstone defenders threw themselves

into every tackle and Hartley stood firm in goal. As the half wore on Readstone came more into the game with Dixon, Garner and Sharples going close on the Blue Star goal.

As the referee prepared to blow for full time Blue Star broke away and looked certain to score when their winger hit the bye-line and pulled the ball back. With Hartley beaten the Blue Star centre forward was left with the easy task of despatching the ball into an empty net, instead he watched in agony as the ball floated harmlessly over the Readstone crossbar. The referee blew the final whistle and both teams prepared for extra time.

As in normal time Blue Star took control of the game and as the first period of extra time came to an end the Readstone management team decided to move Michael Jones from his central midfield role to the right wing. In the second period Jones came more into the game threatening the visitors with his pinpoint centres.

With five minutes remaining Blue Star floated in a centre which was dealt with comfortably by Hartley. Seeing Roger Haythornthwaite unmarked he bowled the ball out to him. Haythornthwaite transferred it to Garner who in turn found Sharples who was facing his own goal. An easy pass was on to his 'keeper, but instead swivelled round and hit a cross field pass to Jones on the wing. With his last ounce of energy Jones sped up the wing leaving defenders in his wake. As he reached the penalty area he crossed towards the willing Scarborough, but the ball landed just behind him, and as the visitors' centre backs moved towards it, Thomas Little moved in, and with the outside of his left foot diverted the ball into the bottom right hand corner of the Blue Star goal.

As the final whistle went Readstone trudged off wearily but knowing they had produced a display of guts and character to inflict a defeat on a superb team. Thirteen players had given their all and possibly a little extra for Readstone United.☹

– Alan Garner.



Readstone United Under 16s, 1994/95. Back row: Robert Devine, Warren Jackson, Jonathan Dugdale, Matthew Beer, Stephen Clarke, James Howorth, Darren Holden, Manager. Front row: John Cooper, Gareth Houghton, Anthony Burns, Andrew Blackledge, Sam Marshall, Oliver Thorn. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United Under 15As, 1994/95, Hyndburn League. Back row: Clive Bennett, manager, Chad Mayoh, John Leaver, Neil Cartledge, Oliver Nowell, Matthew Torbett, Adam Kostilek, Andrew Whaites, Brian Yeoman, coach. Front row: Armas Best, coach, Simon Best, Duncan Bennett, Tom Bartlett, Wesley Clarkson, Gavin Yeoman, Lee Bowman. (Photo: Author).

7 A lost championship

1994-1995



IT WAS now five years since Readstone United had been conceived and the club had progressed steadily to become a competitive opponent on the playing field and a respected youth organisation in the local community. At the beginning of the 1994/95 season the club boasted a full set of teams from Under 11 to 16, competing in various leagues, and each with their own staff of managers and coaches.

The Under 16s were managed by the author, who gave way to Darryl Holden, in October, and competed in the Hyndburn League; Steve Neary relinquished the reins of the Under 15A team due to business commitments, and the team was taken over by Clive Bennett, the club chairman, who was assisted by Brian Yeoman, Armas Best and Graham Torbett. The Under 14s were now led by David Jones and Andrew Little; Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough stayed at Under 13 level; and Paul Clarke made his entrance as manager of the Under 11s in the Accrington Boys' League. Geoff Lambert continued as manager of the Under 15B team in the Burnley League. Unfortunately, there wasn't an Under 12 team.

At the younger, non-competitive level, Alan Fearnhead and Paul Liles joined the club and took on the managership role of the Under 10s, and Brian Jeffries continued with the Under 8s and 9s.

It was an exciting time for Readstone with over 80 boys pulling on a blue shirt every week to represent the combined communities of Read and Simonstone. Hopes were high and there was much talk of winning a championship.

But talk of a championship was premature, for the Under 16s and 15s got off to an indifferent start dropping points. The 16s lost their first game at Northolt 0 – 6 to a very strong Langho Juniors, whilst the 15s drew their first game 2 – 2 with Stanhill Rovers and then lost 3 – 10 in a bruising encounter with Blue Star. But there was one highlight – the form of Tom Bartlett. Tom scored all five goals in the two matches.

The 16s also had a tough match with Blue Star at the Arbories in October, and were unlucky not to win the encounter. Readstone took the lead in the first half with goals from Matthew Beer and Liam Carter and



Matthew Beer, surrounded by four Borrowdale United defenders sees his shot rocket past the opposition's 'keeper into the net in Readstone's Under 16s 9 – 0 win at Roefield, in November 1994. (Photo: Author).

held on to it until the last 15 minutes, when an injury to central defender, Anthony Burns, forced the manager to make several tactical changes due to the loss of such a key player. Blue Star quickly found Readstone's weak point and clawed two goals back with seconds to spare. There were some convincing wins, however, including a 4 – 1 victory over Brierfield Celtic, with Warren Jackson scoring twice and Matthew and Liam adding the other goals. In their next match they trounced Borrowdale United 9 – 0 at Roefield. Warren, Jonathan Dugdale and Sam Marshall grabbed two each and John Cooper, Andrew Blackledge and Matthew Beer helped complete the rout.

Duggie's excellent form was recognised by the League and he was selected for the Hyndburn League's Under 16 Inter-League team.

Before Christmas, Clive Bennett's Under 15s recorded two excellent victories, the first was a 5 – 0 thrashing of Darwen Town. The goals were scored by John Leaver, Duncan Bennett, Simon Best, Oliver Nowell and, the inevitable, Tom Bartlett. The second game was against Burnley Boys' Club, when Tom notched a hat trick and former 'keeper turned outfield player, Adam Kostilek scored twice, with Peter Firth and captain, Matthew Torbett getting the other two in a 7 – 1 win.

Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough decided at the end of the previous season to stay at Under 13 level, due mainly to their sons, Michael and Bevan, having the previous two seasons played at a level a year ahead of

their own age group. There was also a number of lads in the same position, so they felt it would be interesting to see how they would perform against boys of their own age. Unfortunately, this meant saying goodbye to some of the better players, such as "Spike" Jones, Thomas Little, Adrian Hartley and Matthew Ward, who moved up to Under 14 level.

The Under 13s lost their first two matches 0 – 7 to Darwen Town and 1 – 6 to Islington Boys – Robert Astin scored Readstone's consolation goal. But by the end of September their confidence had returned and they beat Anchor 9 – 3. New striker Daryl Holden scored four, Robert Astin netted a hat trick, and Alastair Nowell and Matthew Smith got the other two goals. The rest of the season the team struggled to find any form of consistency, due mainly to the small squad and lack of competition for places. But there was the occasional high, notably the 6 – 1 victory in the cup against Langho Juniors. Daryl Holden proved himself to be too much of a handful for the Langho defence by scoring a hat trick; Michael Garner, Bevan Scarborough and Daniel Cassidy chipped in with the others.

Over in the Burnley League the Under 15B team, under Geoff Lambert's guidance, was struggling once again. A 1 – 6 defeat by St James, Rawtenstall, followed by a 1 – 3 defeat by Borrowdale United, set the tone to which most of the season was to follow. Stephen Roberts scored Readstone's goals in both matches. There was little doubt Geoff had a job on his hands, which was compounded by not having an assistant to help share the workload. But the boys were enthusiastic, and lads such as Gavin Dixon, Nick Veevers, Danny Davis and Simon Jarvis – Readstone's own "Crazy Gang" – turned up every week and played some good football

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“THERE have been many memorable moments with Readstone over the years, but one incident that stands out clearly in my mind happened on a wind-swept hillside above the village of Trawden, in March, 1995.

It was at the end of my first season solely in charge as manager of the Under 15s team playing in the Burnley Towneley Junior League.

The winter had been an awful time, both in results and weather conditions. We'd struggled to put out full teams, there were injuries, a shortage of players, lack of confidence, postponements and we just couldn't score goals – we kept hitting the woodwork, the opposition's players and missing open goals. Most of the lads, and myself included, were fed up with it all and couldn't wait for the season to end so we could take stock and start afresh.

We were playing Colne Clarets, and not particularly well, and even worse on the wrong end of a 0-2 scoreline. Things were once again going rapidly downhill. With five minutes of the match left Matthew Rung won a

corner on the right, against the run of play. As Richard Clement prepared to take it I heard a shout from over my shoulder, “Hold on, Clem!”, and out of the corner of my eye I saw a lone figure running from our penalty area towards the Clarets' goal – it was our extrovert keeper, Simon Jarvis.

As Richard's corner came over Simon, still wearing his gloves and peaked cap who hadn't stopped running from his own area, met the ball with a devastating flying header. The ball rocketed into the corner of the net past a surprised Clarets' defence and their flat footed keeper. What a goal. I'm sure

Peter Schmeichel must have heard about it, because every time Man United are losing he tries to copy exactly what Simon did – but he hasn't quite perfected the technique like Simon!

Picking himself up out of the mud Simon proceeded to run round Trawden rec. on a lengthy celebration more fitting to scoring the winning goal at a Wembley cup final, with his teammates desperately trying to catch him up.

Simon's antics on that day were one of the funniest things I've ever seen in over 30 years of playing and watching football. But it also had a magical effect on all who witnessed it, lifting the depression that had settled over the team during the latter part of the season. Although we lost 1-2 – the result was soon forgotten – the game went down in Readstone folklore

as the match when Jarvis scored the “Goal of the Season.”

In the following years Simon, never one to underestimate his own ability, would regale the tale to all who were prepared to listen, embellishing it with quotes from a dog-eared Burnley Express newspaper cutting. I bet he still carries that cutting in his wallet, and I wouldn't be surprised if he's still telling the same story of the “Greatest Readstone Goal Ever” in 20 years from now! – Geoff Lambert.

A little known fact ...

It is common knowledge that Geoff has been the club treasurer since its inception back in the mid-80s – and a thankless job if ever there was one. But how many readers also know that Geoff has been treasurer of the local scout and guide group even longer and to cap it all is, you've guessed it ... treasurer for Chatburn Cricket Club, his other great sporting love.

A remarkable service to the community, and an even more remarkable man – Author.



Simon Jarvis – did he score the “Greatest Goal Ever” for Readstone whilst playing

without necessarily getting the results they deserved. Their enthusiasm, however, was rewarded in October when they recorded their first win – a 4-2 victory over Colne Clarets at Towneley. Tony Hill scored twice, with Richard Clements and Nick Veevers, grabbing the other two goals.

There were some narrow defeats too, a 3-4 defeat at Barnoldswick Park Rangers and a 1-2 loss to Colne Clarets, in which goalkeeper Simon Jarvis scored an amazing goal.

At the younger end of the club Alan Fearnhead and Paul Liles took charge of the Under 10s, putting them through their paces with an exhausting set of training sessions on the school field every Saturday morning. They also managed a number of friendlies which included a 4-3 defeat of Cliviger in an exciting end to end match. Matthew Fisher scored on two occasions and Jamie Dunbar and Robert Walsh got the others. The Under 8s and 9s under the guidance of Brian Jeffries, shared the Saturday morning training sessions with the 10s, and didn't compete in any competitive matches, except for a friendly against Belvedere which they lost 0-1.

If the 16s, the two 15s and 13s teams were having an indifferent season, then the same couldn't be said for the 14s and 11s.



Readstone United Under 15Bs – the “Crazy Gang,” 1994/95, Burnley League. Back row: Chris Townson, Richard Clements, Danny Davis, Gavin Dixon, Matthew Rung, Dean Sisson, Simon England, Simon Jarvis, Geoff Lambert, manager. Front row: John Leaver, Duncan Bennett, Robert Hetherington, Andrew Lambert. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United Under 13s, 1994/95. Back row: James Waddington, Bevan Scarborough, Michael Garner, Alastair Nowell, Martin Peel, James Drury, Alex Hodbod, Phil Scarborough, manager. Front row: Craig Trickett, Darryl Holden, Peter Dalby, Matthew Smith. (Photo: Author).

With Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough not moving up an age group, a new management team was required if the club was to put out an Under 14 team. David Jones and Andrew Little came to the fore, and in doing so inherited a very capable team with some talented members. In addition to "Spike" Jones, Matthew Ward, Thomas Little, Adrian Hartley and Danny Sharples, they also added Stephen Lindley and Paul Bracewell – both of whom were to play an important part in their team's success.

It came as a bit of a disappointment when they lost their first game 0 – 2 to Blue Star, but quickly recovered to beat Victoria Boys 5 – 1 in their next match. Paul Bracewell netted a hat trick, with Adrian and Thomas getting the others.

The team suffered a setback early in the season when Michael Jones was struck down by a serious illness, but the team kept going and to their credit did extremely well despite "Spike's" absence. The team's success was recognised by the Hyndburn League with four players – Thomas Little, Adrian Hartley, Paul Bracewell and Stephen Lindley – being chosen for the Under 14 Inter-League team. All four played in the League's cup matches against Rochdale and Barrow-in-Furness, when a goal each by

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...



“OUR first season in competitive football has yet to be equalled in Readstone history, however, the statistics of P24, W19, D1, L4, F160, A33 and a goal difference of +127 did little to alleviate the disappointment of losing the Accrington & District Boys' League Under 11s title at the end of the 1994/95 season.

Readstone and St. Joseph's ended the season level on points at the top of the league, and, despite Readstone's far superior goal difference, under league rules a play-off game had to be arranged to decide who would be champions.

The game was played at Great Harwood's Showground with partisan encouragement from our loyal supporters, on a pitch which was bone dry due to the drought.

Unfortunately, even before the game commenced we were on to a loser, Andrew Bennett our regular 'keeper, was injured on the morning of the match and couldn't take part. Dominic Kaye unselfishly volunteered to take his place, but his presence in defence was

missed greatly.

Readstone took the lead after 20 minutes with an outrageous shot from Paul Barrett; he hit the ball from just inside the opposition's half. The height of the shot coupled with a rock hard pitch enabled the ball to bounce high over the St. Joseph's 'keepers' head.

The scorline went 1 – 1, 1 – 2, 2 – 2, with an equalizing goal from Andrew Bennett, so extra time was required. Extra time brought a further goal for each team, Andrew Bennett adding his second, to make it 3 – 3. Then with a penalty shoot-out looking inevitable, St. Joseph's scored the winner with literally the last kick of the match, to make it a 3 – 4 defeat, and with it the loss of a championship which rightly should have come home to Readstone.”

– Paul Clarke.



Readstone's highly successful 1994/95 Accrington League Under 11s team. Back row: Paul Clarke, manager, Chris Green, Martyn Thompson, Dominic Kaye, Andrew Bennett, keeper, David Jaggs, Craig Hill, Russell Bennett, trainer, Peter Stubbs, assistant manager. Front row: Oliver Newby, Andrew Stubbs, Andrew Bennett, striker, Oliver Clarke, Joseph Marshall, Photo: Author.



Readstone's Thomas Little, Paul Bracewell, Stephen Lindley and Adrian Hartley – called up by the Hyndburn League to represent the League in the Lancashire Football Association Under 14s cup competition. (Photo: Author).

Adrian and Paul in the 3 – 1 win took them through to the final against Lancaster & Morecambe, at the Giant Axe ground, where they won 2 – 1 to clinch the trophy.

The return of "Spike" after Christmas coincided with an 8 – 1 thrashing of Borrowdale United, when both Adrian and Thomas scored hat tricks, with Stephen and "Spike" adding the other two.

It was in the cup competition where Readstone played their best and most decisive football. In the quarter finals they were drawn against Islington Boys and quickly showed their superiority taking the lead after three minutes with a well worked goal by Stephen Dunne. Readstone held the upper hand and hit the woodwork several times but were unable to add to the goal tally. A 1 – 0 win looked safe but in the last two minutes Islington equalised and the tie seemed destined to go into extra time. This was not to be, however, for in true cup fighting tradition, Readstone came straight back with a goal from Thomas Little, which turned out to be the last kick of the match.

In the semi-finals Readstone came up against Huncoat United at Fennyfold, on a very wet day. The pitch was in atrocious condition and ideally should have been postponed. The League, however, thought

otherwise and pressurised the referee into playing the tie. At half time Readstone were coasting and leading 5 – 0, but the conditions got worse, and halfway through the second half the referee made a controversial decision by abandoning the match. With only 15 minutes left on the clock the Readstone contingent thought the decision diabolical and complained in no uncertain manner. Little could be done, however, but submit a protest and prepare for the rearranged match.

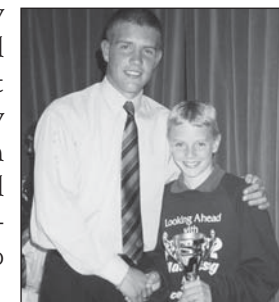
A fortnight later, in far better conditions, Readstone continued where they left off in the first match, thrashing Huncoat with a 10 – 1 scoreline and sending them into the final with Blue Star who defeated Darwen United in the other semi. The scorers that day were Thomas Little, four, Philip "Jimmy" Greaves, two, and one goal each for "Spike", Paul Bracewell, Stephen Lindley and Mark Darbyshire.

The Starkie Cup Final was held at the Great Harwood Showground. If Readstone was to pull off a win then they would have to work very hard as Blue Star had beaten the lads both home and away in the league. As it turned out they were up to the challenge and won the game thanks to a single Thomas Little goal following a well-worked move out of defence.

In addition to the cup win the team finished fourth in the league, but there was one last happy moment which was also tinged with a degree of sadness. Adrian Hartley and Thomas Little were signed up by the Oldham Athletic School of Excellence, which meant their departure from the club.

The performance and achievements of Paul Clarke's Under 11s team in the Accrington Boys' League, during the 1994/95 season, is now a legend in the clubs' history. From the moment they kicked off in September to the following April they played with style and a determination that practically swept all others to one side. But they had a fierce competitor – St Josephs, from Accrington – who were to sit on their shoulder all season long and at the very end steal a championship which should rightly have come home to Readstone.

Striker, Andy Bennett set the tone in the first match of the season, when he scored eight goals in Readstone's 16 – 2 demolition of Harwood Opals. Martyn Thompson notched a further four and David Jaggs and Dominic Kaye grabbed one each



Andrew Bennett receives the Under 11s Player of the Year Trophy from James Webster, following a season when he scored an astonishing 68 goals.

in an outstanding victory. The next match they defeated Clayton Boys 7 – 1, St Annes 7 – 2, Clitheroe Wolves 4 – 3 and St Josephs 5 – 2, a run which sent them to the top of the table. They just couldn't stop winning with Andy, Martyn and Paul Barrett scoring hat tricks each week. They even managed a 24 – 0 victory over Huncoat Colts along the way.

By the end of the season they had scored 144 goals, Andrew Bennett had chalked up 68, Martyn Thompson 42 and Paul Barrett 34. The rest of the team managed a further 26, making 160 in total. They had 33 scored against them, giving an incredible goal difference of +127!

But on the way they slipped up losing four games which cost them a championship. In their last game of the season they defeated Huncoat United 6 – 3 at Roefield, which saw them tie for the title with St Josephs. Under the circumstances the League decided there was to be no tie and a play-off for the honours was held at the Great Harwood Showground. Unfortunately, it was not to be and Readstone lost the match 5 – 3 after extra time, and with it Readstone's first clear cut opportunity of winning a championship.



Readstone United Under 14s, 1994/95. Back row: David Jones, manager, Philip McLoughlin, Mark Darbyshire, Matthew Ward, Adrian Hartley, Adam Passmore, Tom Little, Stephen Lindley, Adam —, Andrew Little, coach. Front row: Philip Greaves, Ryan Pirrie, Paul Bracewell, Matthew Dalby, Michael Jones. (Photo: Author).

FROM THE TOUCHLINE

“ ONE GOAL in one game made all the hard work by myself, Andrew Little and our helpers all worthwhile. It was in the final of the Hyndburn League's Under 14s Starkie Brothers Cup at Great Harwood's Showground, and to put the icing on the cake it was against our arch rivals Blue Star.

We had had a good season in the league, turning in some excellent performances. Against Blue Star we had lost, drawn and actually had the audacity to win their famous marathon pre-season 7-a-side tournament. As you can imagine by the time we had both won through to the final, competition if not respect, was “healthy.”

During the pre-match warm up our players were pointing out various faces in the Blue Star team who were known in football circles as “ringers” and new faces who none of us had seen before. Andy and I had the job of dismissing this from our lads' minds and convincing them, although not superstars, we were able to beat any team on our day.

This was to prove correct. It was a hard bruising encounter in which both teams gave it their all on a very large pitch. Stephen Lindley

and Tom Little both went close to opening the scoring. This bred confidence into the Readstone team, but Blue Star continued to press on. There was an incident in the Readstone penalty area and Blue Star claimed a penalty, but the referee turned their appeals down, and from the resulting clearance by Michael Jones the loose ball was

picked up by the skilful Adrian Hartley. Adrian interchanged neat passes with Paul Bracewell, and then passed to Tom Little, who had made a tremendous run, to calmly side foot the ball past the advancing Blue Star 'keeper. GOAL!! and a goal that made a season.

From that moment the Readstone team played for each other, often under pressure, but a couple of good saves by Adam Passmore and some great defending by Matt Ward, ensured we kept a clean sheet and brought home the silverware. Who says there is no justice in football!!”

– David Jones.



Main pic: We've won the cup ... dressing room celebrations for the Readstone United team. Inset: Matthew Ward with the Starkie Bros Cup. Photos: Jones family.



Readstone United Under 16A, Hyndburn League, 1995/96. Back row: Colin Bartlett, coach, Russell Bennett, coach, Armas Best, coach, Lee Bowman, Andrew Whaites, Neil Cartledge, Oliver Nowell, Matthew Torbett, Tony Longworth, Chad Mayoh, Clive Bennett, manager. Front row: Graham Torbett, coach, Chris Ingham, John Leaver, Wesley Clarkson, Simon Best, Duncan Bennett, Adam Kostilek, Tom Bartlett. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United Under 16B, 1995/96, Burnley League. Back row: David Eaves, manager, Gavin Dixon, Dean Sisson, Matthew Rung, Peter Firth, Simon England, Andrew Lambert, Nick Veevers, Geoff Lambert, co-manager. Front row: Gavin Yeoman, Matthew Fishlock, Simon Jarvis, Richard Clements, Chris Townson, Nathan Rogan. (Photo: Author).

8 Second best 1995-1996



THE START of the 1995/96 season once again brought a number of management personnel changes. After seven years with the club, Brian Yeoman stood down from the position of assistant manager due to a change in his working hours, and David Jones left the club after the previous season's cup success with the Under 14s. However, all was not gloom and doom as the club welcomed two new managers at the younger end – Paul Thomas-Fisher and David Tinker. Although the departure of Brian and David was upsetting, Readstone still had a strong committee, indeed, Clive Bennett, as chairman, Alan Spence, as secretary, and Geoff Lambert, as treasurer, were reappointed at the club's AGM and continued with their respective positions, as they had done for the past six years.

The new line-up of management teams for the new season was: Under 16A, Hyndburn League, Clive Bennett, with support from Graham Torbett and Armas Best; Under 16B, Burnley League, the author and Geoff Lambert; Under 14 Hyndburn League, Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough; Under 12, Hyndburn League, Paul Clarke with Peter Stubbs; Under 11, Accrington League, Alan Fearnhead and Paul Liles; Under 10s, Brian Jeffries with Steve Neary; Under 9s, Paul Thomas-Fisher; and the Under 8s, David Tinker.

It was also a sad time for some of the players too. Most of the junior leagues in East Lancashire finish at Under 16 level, which meant the previous season's Under 16 team was disbanded. This meant the departure of some of the lads, such as James Howorth, Sam Marshall, Chris Eaves and John Cooper who had been with the club since its beginning in the mid 1980s.

In preparation for the new season Clive Bennett was busy during the summer months and signed up a number of new players to strengthen his team. Lee Bowman and Chris Ingham were added to the squad, both of whom were to play a major part in the team's forthcoming successful campaign.

The Hyndburn League teams kicked off their season in late August, and once again, as always at the start of a new season hopes were high.

Adam Kostilek scored the opening goal of the season for the Under 16A team in a hard fought 1 – 0 victory over an extremely resilient St. Joseph's from Accrington. This was followed with an unbelievable 23 – 0 win against a weakened Blue Star team. Newcomer, Chris Ingham couldn't believe his luck notching eight goals in only his second game! Whilst there were hat-tricks for Duncan Bennett, John Leaver and Andrew Whaites. The ever-vigilant Tom Bartlett chipped in with a further two, as did Neil Cartledge, and Tony Longworth and Peter Firth added one each. Blue Star couldn't wait for the game finish and Readstone 'keeper Oliver Nowell had the enviable position of having touched the ball on only one occasion during the whole match!

Readstone led the charge throughout the autumn and winter months recording some excellent and hard-won victories over West End 2 – 1, Borrowdale United 2 – 1 and Burnley Boys' Club 2 – 1, which took them to the top of the table.

The Under 15s, under the guidance of Andrew Little, lost their opening match 1 – 4 against Blue Star, with his son, Thomas, who had been given permission by Oldham Athletic to play, grabbing the Readstone equaliser. The defeat was a temporary setback and the lads soon got into their stride and back into winning ways with a 12 – 1 victory over West End and a 10 – 0 win against Mill Hill, from Blackburn. In the West End game Thomas found the back of the oppositions' net on four occasions, and was joined in the celebrations with goals from Stephen Lindley (3) and one each for Andrew Harrison, Philip Greaves, Stephen Garstang and Wayne Blackett. Paul Bracewell grabbed a hat trick in the Mill Hill victory.

Readstone consolidated these wins with a good run up to Christmas which saw them gain third place and challenging for the top of the table. Whilst on its way to gaining this lofty position, the team encountered some discipline problems, which ultimately would prove both costly to the club in fines and the team's success.

Football is a contact sport which generates high emotions in both players and spectators, and none more so than at the 14 – 18 year old level. Keeping a good standard of discipline is extremely difficult and it affects all junior football clubs without exception at some stage. To try and overcome some of these problems Readstone issued a Code of Conduct – a copy of which can be found at the back of this book – which is issued to each of the lads at the beginning of the season and shows exactly what is expected of them.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“ IT'S NOT often a manager at junior football level can say he made an inspired substitution. However, I recall one such instance during the winter of the 1995/96 season when I was managing the Readstone United Under 16s team competing in the Burnley Junior League.

The match was held at the Marl Pitts Sports Centre, above the town of Rawtenstall, against St. James'.

Overnight there had been a hard frost, as had been most of the previous week, and on the morning of the match the day dawned with a very bright sun, low in the sky which meant you had one hand permanently held towards your forehead shielding its brightness.

When we arrived at the ground we found the referee, David Miller, the former Burnley star, making an inspection. It was touch and go whether the match would go ahead due to the ice and frost under foot, but the ref decided it was ok..

As the game got underway it soon became apparent to my assistant, Geoff Lambert and I, that



Nathan "Josh" Rogan – proved on a cold, frozen hilltop above Rawtenstall, there is no substitute for skill

the lads were having difficulty keeping their feet. St. James' had three very tall centre backs who were finding it extremely difficult to cope with the conditions. Our centre forward, Dean Sissons, a well-built lad, whose job it was to sort out these centre backs was in turn having his own problems trying to keep his feet. On a normal day his hustle and bustle approach would have been more than adequate and prove a handful to any defence, but in the icy conditions it proved quite ineffective.

The most effective players on the pitch were the smallest lads – Richard Clements and

Matthew Fishlock due to their lower centre of gravity and the ability to keep their feet. But their work in midfield was coming to no avail, for as the ball was passed to our big strikers – Dean and Matthew Rung – it kept running away out of control.

Within a quarter of an hour of the kick off we made our tactical substitution and took big Dean off and brought Nathan "Josh" Rogan on – a tactic which would win the match for us.

Now "Josh" wasn't the tallest of players, but what he lacked in height was more than compensated for in skill and speed.

Matt Rung was pulled back into midfield and Matthew Fishlock and "Clem" were pushed up in attack to partner "Josh". All three lads were probably under 5ft 4in at the time and as they started their game of slick passing and fast

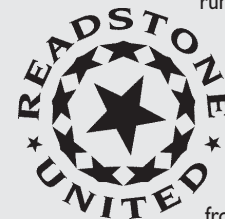
running, the St. James' defence didn't know what had hit them.

"Josh" set up Matthew Fishlock for the first goal, then with a neat piece of skill rounded two defenders before side footing the ball past the 'keeper.

Wave after wave of attacks followed from the Readstone mini-dynamoes which ended with Matthew completing his hat-trick, and "Clem" and "Josh" hitting the post on no less than three occasions.

Readstone ran out 5 – 2 winners – Gavin Yeoman scoring the fifth goal with a looping shot that went over the head of the 'keeper who had been "blinded" by the low bright sun – and with it recorded their first win of the season.

It's often said there is no place for small players on the football field – usually by "numbskull giants" – but "Josh", "Clem" and Matthew proved that day if you've got enough heart, skill and are prepared to make the most of the prevailing conditions, you too can be a winner, and at the same time make the giants look very silly.☺ – David Eaves.





Readstone United Under 11s, Accrington & District Boys' League, 1995/96. Back row: Alan Fearnhead, manager, Paul Liles, Ian Nuttall, Steve Moores, Rob Walsh, coaches. Middle row: James Huggon, Neil Tennant, Roger Carins, Arron Hanson, Robbie Walsh, Michael Cant, Andrew Moores, Matthew Thomas-Fisher, Jamie Dunbar. Front row: Ryan McBreen, Danny Liles, Adam Nuttall, Howard Dandy, Rory Longton. (Photo: Author).



Readstone 'keeper, Arron Hanson collects the ball during the Under 11s first competitive match against St. Joseph's, September 1995. (Photo: Author).

Andrew Little and Alan Ashworth were often at the sharp end of things during this period, and it must be said they coped admirably, with a situation that at times could quite easily have got out of hand and been disastrous for the club. Weaker minded individuals would have given up altogether on the lads concerned.

The 1995/96 season was also to prove a difficult time for Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough, but not for the same reasons as the Under 15s. Throughout the season they faced an uphill battle due to losing a number of key players and a greatly reduced squad. There were defeats against West End, 0 – 4; Great Harwood, 2 – 4 (Bevan Scarborough and Ashley Sudderick scored for Readstone) and Revidge 1 – 8 (Daryl Holden), which in previous seasons Readstone would have been expected to win, but left them close to the foot of the table.

However, they did manage to overcome Langho Juniors 3 – 2 in the cup in a tense end to end match, which saw the team's fighting spirit coming to the fore. Daryl Holden led the charge with a fine hat-trick.

Hopes were high for Paul Clarke's Under 12s team following their success the previous season in the Accrington League, when they narrowly missed out on the championship following a play-off with St. Joseph's. Their hopes, however, were slightly dashed before the new season started when scoring sensation, Andrew Bennett, left the club for Whalley Juniors. But the situation was soon forgotten following first, a 2 – 2 draw with Blackburn Eagles, who hadn't been beaten for the past two seasons, and a 5 – 5 draw with Revidge. Andrew Stubbs and Martyn Thompson provided the firepower in Andrew's absence, and found themselves on the scoresheet in both games with new signing Hudson Parsons and Andrew Davies nicking the odd goals.

But competition in the Hyndburn League was tough, and as with the Under 14s, Paul too, had a small squad and as the season wore on and injuries and absentees began to affect the team, so results suffered. In November they lost 0 – 9 to Blackburn Eagles in the first round of the cup, and was followed with further defeats in the League against Islington Boys, 2 – 5, and Brunlea Juniors, 1 – 2, when James Bibby scored Readstone's consolation goal.

However one bright spot during the season was a day trip for the lads to Wembley to see the England v. Germany Schoolboy International. The trip was organised by the League but half of the bus was taken up with Readstone players. Although England lost the match 1 – 3 everyone

enjoyed the experience and certainly contributed to the enthusiastic support for England.

One amusing incident took place during an Under 12s match against Blackburn Eagles and concerned David Marshall. David, the team's regular linesman, sorry referee's assistant, was running the line and concentrating intently on the game, when suddenly he bowled over an opposition's supporter who had strayed too near the pitch. There was a great bundle of arms and legs and both ended up rolling in the mud. The game had to be stopped whilst they extricated themselves from the mud and the teams stopped laughing. The Readstone management contingent quickly learned from the lesson and has since positioned themselves on the opposite side of the field when David is running the line.

Over in the Accrington Boys' League, Alan Fearnhead and his Under 11s team made their debut in competitive football. Their first game on a fine Saturday morning in late September was against the previous season's Under 10's champions, St. Joseph's, at Roefield. Readstone were no match for the very skilful Accrington team and found themselves on the wrong side of a 0 – 8 defeat.

Over the following weeks before winter took hold, Alan and his assistant, Paul Liles, put in a lot of extra coaching and training of the lads, and quickly got themselves back on track, first with a 1 – 1 draw against Great Harwood Town and then by thrashing Oakenshaw Rangers 7 – 0. Robert Walsh and Ryan McBreen both scored hat-tricks that day with Jamie Dunbar knocking in the seventh.



Club chairman, Clive Bennett – with the famous thermos flask – and David Marshall, club vice-chairman. Watch out if David's running the line – your life could be at risk! (Photo: Author).

In early December they defeated a strong Barrowford Celtic side 5 – 1. Ryan, once again found himself on the scoresheet, along with Adam Nuttall (2), and Andrew Moores and Michael Cant, with one goal each. Unfortunately, they lost their next match 0 – 6 to local rivals, Clitheroe Wolves, but their excellent unbeaten run prior to this game lifted them into third position by Christmas. Down amongst the younger, non-competitive teams in the club, enthusiasm was high,



Matthew Fishlock prepares to put in a strike on goal for the Readstone Under 16B team against Colne Clarets at Roefield. (Photo: Author).

with the Under 8, 9 and 10 teams training together every Saturday morning on the school field.

Former Readstone manager, Steve Neary, was assisting Under 10s manager Brian Jeffries to knock the lads into shape for their entry into the Accrington League the next season. They had a number of friendly matches, most notably a 2 – 0 victory over Belvedere, at Read. Thomas Harper and Chris Holland scored the goals, and Brian made goalkeeper, David Thompson, man of the match for an outstanding performance in goal whilst stopping a competent Belvedere forward line from scoring.

The Under 8s and 9s combined together for a programme of friendly matches which, judging by the number played, could quite easily be interpreted as having played a full league programme! In their first match, Paul Thomas-Fisher and David Tinker's combined squad, defeated Barrowford Celtic 3 – 2 with a hat-trick by Duncan Fearnhead. But they they came back to earth with a bump in their next game, losing 1 – 13 to Borrowdale Boys. Robert Cresswell grabbed Readstone's consolation goal.

In early December they managed a 1 – 1 draw with West End, trailing an early goal. However, they never gave up and showed their fighting spirit, which was rewarded with a last minute equaliser from Ryan Thomas-Fisher. In the last match of the season they lost to Brunlea Juniors, but as with every other form of children's sporting activity in the

country, it was overshadowed by the Dunblane massacre which had happened earlier in the week. All players observed a one minute's silence.

Back at the older end of the club, the authors' Under 16B team began to show an improvement, first, with a 2 – 2 draw against Borrowdale United, at Barden, and then two wins over St. James', Rawtenstall. Gavin Yeoman and Matthew Rung got the goals in the Borrowdale game and Nathan "Josh" Rogan was made man of the match for outstanding performances in both St. James' games. The two wins and a draw took the team to a respectable mid-table position – and for the first time in two years they were off the bottom. Unfortunately, luck wasn't with them in the cup and they crashed out 2 – 7 to Brierfield Celtic. Nick Veevers headed Readstone's first goal from a corner and Richard Clements knocked in the second from the penalty spot after being unceremoniously pulled down as he attempted to round the Celtic 'keeper.

The Under 15s carried on with their good run in the league and moved up to second place in early January following an 8 – 1 win over Great Harwood Town. David Hankinson and Stephen Lindley both notched up hat-tricks with Andrew Purvis and Billy Newton chipping with the other two goals. In the Elgin Cup competition, Readstone progressed to the final knocking out West End 3 – 1 with goals from Nearn, Lindley and Bracewell, where they met their old foes, Blue Star, in a repeat of the previous season's final. Alas, Readstone couldn't repeat the heroics of the last 12 months, and went down 0 – 2 to a Blue Star team who had the upper hand for most of the match.

The 13s and 14s continued to struggle with their small squads but bravely held on to mid-table positions. However, with little prospect of recruiting new players for the next season, Alan Garner and Phil Scarborough decided to call it a day and disbanded their small squad of players on the last day of the season, and with it brought a chapter in the Readstone story to an end. There was a great feeling of sadness in the club as Alan and Phil departed for pastures new; they had contributed a great deal, both on and off the field, in helping to make the club so successful in their coaching of young players and fluid style of play.

But back to the playing field, if there was to be any success for Readstone at the end of the 1995/96 season, apart from the Under 15s cup run, then it was to be the Under 16A team. Throughout the season they had worked hard recording some excellent victories on the way and put them on top of the league, with West End following close behind.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...



“ UNDER 16 football – this is the age when boys think they are men and can be somewhat difficult at times. Testosterone driven energy and aggression were always in the background of the 1995/96 Readstone Under 16s campaign, but they were energies which we nearly converted into a championship winning formula.

With the assistance of Graham Torbett, who took over coaching when Brian Yeoman had to step down because of work commitments, and Armas Best – surely, the best linesman in the league – we set our stall out to win the league.

Many of the players started with Readstone at Under 11 level, sometimes winning representative honours along the way, and were very loyal. However, there was a lad I brought into the team at the start of the season – Chris Ingham – whom I believed would be the missing piece of the jigsaw in building a successful team.

My fondest memories of the season were the 100 per cent commitment I got from the boys and their first class attitude. We maintained a position close to the top of the table all season long, but it was the last game of the

campaign against our old rivals West End which decided our fate. Was it nerves, loss of form? Who could say, for on that day we found ourselves 0 – 2 down, then 0 – 3 – where was our famous team spirit when we needed it?

Sure enough, it surfaced late in the second half and we fought back to 2 – 3, but the clock won out as did West End. Another five minutes and it could have been a different story.

I still believe that man for man we had the better footballers, which has been proved over, as each week I read their names in the local newspaper whilst playing for adult clubs, and I remember ... Chad Mayoh's sense of humour ... Simon Best, the original smiling assassin ... the devastating Tom Bartlett, and so on.

At the time of writing many of the boys will be in employment, whilst others will be waiting to go off to university, and I hope in years to come they will remember that season, as I do, with affection and pride in our achievement.”

– Clive Bennett.



Action from Readstone's fateful Under 16 match at Roefield against West End United. (Photo: Author).

Fund Raising Sportsman's Dinners

RUNNING A junior football club requires, as Harry Enfield would say, "Loads money!" A quick mental calculation tells me, at 1990s rates, that there isn't much change from £600 to set up a team from scratch, and when you're running eight teams, it takes some finding. A far cry from putting two coats down and kicking a ball around when I was a lad.

Strips, training tops, footballs, pitch leasing, insurance, first aid kits, nets, corner flags, match and training footballs ... the list at times seems endless, and all of it is essential, if we are to be successful and do the job properly.

At the beginning of each season the club charges its members a subscription fee and a small fee before each match which pays for the services of a referee. All the fees are nominal, we don't believe in charging vast sums, and besides the lads should be enjoying their football and not worrying about money.

When Readstone first started out back in the late 1980s the subscriptions and match fees just about covered our outgoings and by holding fun days, car boot and jumble sales we were able to keep a little in reserve. However, that is no longer viable. With inflation and increased commitments we now find we no longer require £100s but £1000s. Over the last number of years we have found the most lucrative way of generating funds is to hold a Sportsman's Dinner.

The function usually takes place at a local conference centre – for the last three years we have used the excellent facilities at Blackburn Rovers and Burnley football clubs – and the format for the evening usually consists of invited guests partaking in a three course dinner which is followed by entertainment from a comedian and a guest speaker, who is normally from the sporting world.

The guests are seated at tables sponsored by individuals and local businesses, many of whom see the function as an ideal way of entertaining their clients or as a "thank you" to their staff.

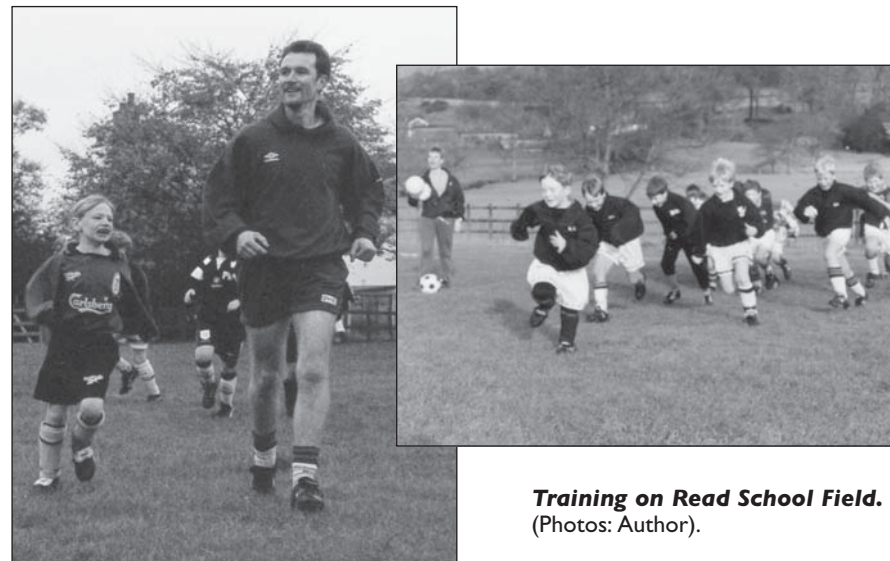
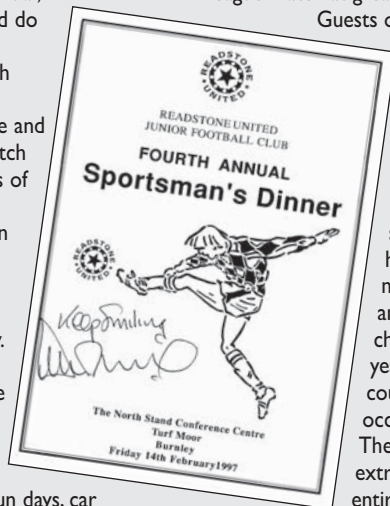
During the course of the evening punters are asked to bid for items in an auction, which often includes signed footballs donated by the local professional clubs. Other more lucrative lots are sometimes on offer such as executive boxes for a top Premiership or Nationwide League match at greatly reduced prices.

Guests over the years have included Duncan McKenzie, Steve Kindon and Norman Whiteside who was the youngest player to score a goal in an FA cup final for Manchester United. Their stories are often humorous, recalling great moments in their careers and some of the colourful characters who over the years have graced our country's greatest sporting occasions.

The Dinners have been extremely successful and due entirely to the untiring and selfless work of Paul Clarke

and Geoff Lambert, whose combined business acumen and contacts have ensured Readstone has stayed in the black and not had to struggle for funds at the beginning of each season.

Today the Sportsman's Dinners are the club's only fund raising event throughout the year and generate the kind of money we require to ensure the club functions properly. They usually take place in February of each year and are open to everyone over 18 years of age. Tickets are usually available from team managers, committee members and a number of local businesses.



Training on Read School Field.
(Photos: Author).

The striking partnership of Chris Ingham and Tom Bartlett had been impressive and the midfield of Duncan Bennett, Simon Best, Lee Bowman and Andrew Whaites had torn apart opposition defences week after week. Neil Cartledge, captain Matthew Torbett and 'keeper, Oliver Nowell, had been commanding in defence. But all these excellent performances would count for very little as the rush for the league title went to the wire on Readstone's last game of the season, against fellow challengers, West End United.

The mathematics were simple, as the two teams lined up at Roefield: Readstone were on top and led by one point; West End, in second position, had a game in hand. A win for either team that day would decide where the championship would end up; a draw would mean a decision would have to wait until the following week. The outcome was entirely in Readstone's hands.

Was it a question of nerves or were the opposition better equipped to handle the situation? Either way, it was not to be Readstone's day, they looked a mere shadow of the team that had played so fluently throughout the past season, and despite a Tom Bartlett goal, lost out 2 – 3. As the crestfallen team trudged off the field, once again, as in previous seasons, Readstone were to be the "bridesmaids and ne'r the bride."

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“SINCE joining the Burnley Youth League two years ago we’ve had some real tough matches, playing against teams full of School of Excellence players, on heavy pitches and often in the most atrocious weather conditions you can imagine. But the hardest fixture we encounter is a local “derby” game, when the lads have to dig deep into their innermost resources to face the greatest opponents of all ... their own mums!

Lads versus Dads matches have been a regular feature of Readstone life down the years, but Lads versus Mums, well I can only describe it as something quite different! The idea of the matches started as a way of getting local press coverage so we could say thank you to Keiron Abbott of Read Motor Bodies for sponsoring our new strip, but it’s now an annual fixture.

The first game ended up at 3 – 3 which left the lads gobsmacked. They couldn’t

believe at just how well-organised the Readstone Ladies were. Goalkeeper, Mrs Ellis, showed outstanding handling throughout the match which would have made David Seaman quite envious, whilst Alison Thomas-Fisher, who was awarded “Woman of the Match”, has received superstar-status since, with her photo jockeying for position between Michael Owen and Alan Shearer on our son’s bedroom wall!

The second game was closer still with a 2 – 2 scoreline. Alison and Amanda Price scored for the Ladies and Andrew Tinker and Johnny Burbridge replied for the Lads. Fortunately, the Lads saved face and won both matches on penalties.

But seriously, parental involvement at Readstone is always appreciated, even though chores such as kit washing, provid-

ing refreshments, transporting of the boys, etc. sometimes get overlooked. On these fun occasions it’s the lads’ special way of saying thank you to all the mums for all their hard work.

And from all the lads, managers and coaches in the club we’d like to say, “The girls have done well!” – Paul Thomas-Fisher.



What a line-up! Lads and Mums join together for a photo call before their annual “grudge” match (Photo: Thomas-Fisher family).

9 A foray into senior football

1996-1997



TOWARDS the end of the 1995/96 season the club sent out a letter to all the members of the two Under 16s teams and the members of the previous season’s Under 16s team asking them if they would be interested in starting an Under 18s team. And if so, would they turn up for a practice match at Roefield in April to discuss the matter further and also for the club to judge whether the project would be viable.

“We knew there would be some interest,” said Geoff Lambert, “especially coming so soon after the Hyndburn League Under 16s team came so close to winning the championship, but it came as a pleasant surprise when 32 lads turned up for the practice match.” There was little discussion that afternoon, players had responded with their feet and we had to form an Under 18s team – in fact, we formed two, one to compete in the Blackburn Philanthropic Youth League and the other in the Burnley Warburton Youth League.

With the introduction of the two Under 18s team the new management teams for the following season were as follows: Under 18s Blackburn Youth League, David Eaves and Geoff Lambert; Under 18s Burnley League, Craig McConnachie; Under 13s Burnley League, Paul Clarke; Under 12s Burnley League, Alan Fearnhead and Paul Liles; Under 11s Accrington League, Brian Jeffries; Under 10s Burnley League, Paul Thomas-Fisher; Under 9s North Valley Friendly League, David Tinker; and Under 8s, Phil Tyreman.

Alan Fearnhead’s Under 12s were the first Readstone team to kick off the new season and got off to a great start beating Salterforth Boys 7 – 3. Andrew Coyne netted four times with the other goals coming from Ryan McBreen, Danny Liles and Kieran Monks, in a thrilling end to end encounter. Unfortunately, the Readstone Under 13s couldn’t match the tenacity of the Under 12s and Paul Clarke’s team ended up with a 0 – 8 defeat at the hands of local rivals Clitheroe Wolves in their first match.

Both the Under 18s teams got off to a good start, in particular, the Burnley League side who dug out a hard-fought 4 – 3 victory over Junior Clarets, the previous season’s champions, at Stoneyholme, in Burnley.



Readstone United Under 18, Blackburn Philanthropic League, 1996/97. Back row: David Eaves, manager, Mark Nightingale, Liam Carter, Stephen Clark, Matthew Rung, Liam Deasey, Robert Devine, Steven Emondson, Chris Eaves. Front row: Tom Bartlett, Matthew Ward, John Cooper, Anthony Burns, Gareth Houghton, Simon Best. (Photo: Author).

Twice Readstone came from behind during the match which see-sawed from end-to-end before Liam Carter scored the winning goal and clinch his hat-trick. The fourth goal was scored by the ever-vigilant Tom Bartlett.

The Blackburn League team drew 2 – 2 with Padiham, at Roefield, in their first match. Padiham, coached by our old friend Mick Dalby from Simonstone, played much the better football, but Readstone got the breaks with goals from Steve Edmundson and Tom Bartlett, and held on to share the points. Simon Best won the man of the match award and was unlucky not to win the game in the last minute for Readstone when his snatched shot hit a post and went agonisingly wide with the Padiham 'keeper well beaten.

In the Accrington & District Boy's League Brian Jeffries' Under 11s had to work hard for their 2 – 0 win over St. Josephs in their first match. Matt James netted Readstone's first goal and Alex Haythornthwaite followed up for their second to secure the points.

There was no shortage of goals in the Readstone Under 10s League matches. Unfortunately, despite a courageous performance by Duncan Fearnhead, the lads went down 1 – 9 to Knuzden in the first match, but



Readstone United Under 18, Burnley Youth League, 1996/97. Back row: John Leaver, Gavin Yeoman, Peter Turner, Duncan Bennett, Simon Jarvis, Andrew Blackledge, Jonathan Carter, Jonathan Dugdale, Russell Bennett, Peter Firth. Front row: James Fazackerley, Nick Veevers, Gavin Dixon, Craig McConnachie, manager, Chad Mayoh, Andrew Whaites, Neil Cartledge. (Photo: C. McConnachie).

Paul Thomas-Fisher's team bounced back to trounce West End 11 – 3 in their second game. Johnny Burbridge hit an unstoppable 20 yarder, which on another day would have vied for goal of the season, had Duncan Fearnhead's admirable performance of notching up seven goals not taken the limelight away from him. Andrew Tinker chipped in with a hat-trick.

Down at the younger end of the club the Under 9s kicked off their first competitive season in the newly-formed North Valley Junior Friendly League and celebrated the occasion with a fine 4 – 0 win over North Valley Dynamos. John Thompson, the younger brother of Martyn, carried on the Thompson tradition of scoring goals by bagging himself a brace, and Steve James and Gregory Kerr shared the others.

Phil Tyreman, manager of the Under 8s, unveiled his secret weapon for the new season – a girl! Chantelle McCormack was introduced in the match against Milltown Wanderers, which Readstone won 2 – 0 thanks to goals from Gary Bowker and Oliver Tyreman. But it was in the next match against Barrowford Celtic when Chantelle made her mark. Coming on as a second half substitute, her arrival was greeted with cries from the opposition of "it's only girl," but it was Chantelle who had the last laugh as she

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“I HAVE been privileged to have been involved with not just one but two generations of Readstone teams over the last 10 years.

My first team goes back to 1990, when with Brian Yeoman we started the first Readstone Under 11s team in the Accrington & District Boys' League and then moved up each year through the Hyndburn & District Youth League to the Under 15s level when I had to step down as manager due to a change in work commitments.

We had so many great games over those five years. None more so than back in 1993 when we took on Merrie England at the “San Siro” and won 1 – 0 through an unstoppable 25 yard volleyed goal from Andrew Whaites and some outstanding goalkeeping by Adam Kostilek, all of which has been recalled in detail by Brian earlier in the book.

There have also been many amusing moments during that time. I recall signing Damien Hart from Merrie England, and prior to the first outing I asked him where he played, to which he replied “Blackburn.” Confused! So I repeated the question, to which his reply was the same. After falling

on the floor with laughter, I told him I'd meant his position, not location. Whoops! Nice one, Damien.

The second generation of involvement with Readstone has been as assistant to Brian Jeffries over the last two years. The first competitive match Brian's team played in the 1996/97 season was pure gold. The lads took on St Joseph's at Wilsons Playing Fields, on a surface I can only liken to Wembley.

The 4-2-4 formation conjured up some wonderful football, passing the ball along the floor and producing wave after wave of attacking play. The two lads in midfield were always available at both ends providing a constant supply for both wingers and with the defenders hunting in packs, it all contributed to a dream start and a fine 2 – 1 victory.

Over the last 10 years it has been a great pleasure working with the two Brians and all the lads who have played for me. And I'd like to thank all of them for their outstanding contributions and the memories that go with them. — Steve Neary.



Steve Neary takes a coaching session prior to a friendly game in August 1990. (Photo: Author).

scored a stunning goal and helped Readstone to a 4 – 0 victory with Gary Bowker and Chris Holt grabbing the other goals.

As the new season settled down it soon became apparent Readstone had a number of teams which would be challenging for honours at the end of the season. One of these was the Under 11s, who by mid November were holding down second position in the Accrington League, whilst over in the Burnley League a 4 – 2 win over Borrowdale United sent the Under 12s to the top of the table thanks to two goals by James Huggan and one each from Michael Cant and Ryan McBreen.

A first season in the North Valley Friendly League was also to prove promising for the Under 9s as they held a favourable top position, but unfortunately the L.F.A. temporarily suspended the League, due to incorrect organisation, and left them high and dry. However, some hastily arranged friendlies kept the boys happy and tied them over until the New Year when the League was allowed to resume playing its fixtures.

By Christmas the Under 8s had played 13 friendly matches, winning eight. One of these victories included an excellent 8 – 1 win over



Readstone United Under 10s, Burnley Youth League, 1996/97, with their sponsor, Mr Keiron Abbott of Read Motor Bodies. Back row: Johnny Burbridge, Robert Cresswell, Andrew Tinker, Mark Bennett, Duncan Fearnhead, Philip Greenwood. Front row: Michael Ellis, Benjamin Littley, Gareth Brice, Ryan Thomas-Fisher, Kyle O'Connor, Jack Abbott. (Photo: Thomas-Fisher Family).

Barrowford Celtic. Gary Bowker was proving himself to be a very accomplished striker, and with assistance from Oliver Tyreman, Sam Mercer, Chris Holt, Martin Pollard and Chantelle “it’s only a girl” McCormack, manager Phil Tyreman had the beginnings of a very good team.

The Under 10s were having a mixed set of results which reflected their mid-table position. In one match against West End they were winning quite comfortably 5 – 1 at half time with goals from Andrew Tinker, Duncan Fearnhead and Johnny Burbridge. This match, however, was as is often quoted “a game of two halves,” with Readstone falling to pieces in the second half, as a combination of the elements and a reinvigorated opposition overwhelmed the lads and beat them 5 – 7!

There was also a similar story for the Under 11s in the cup match against Great Harwood Rovers. Readstone were 3 – 0 up at half time, and then ended losing 3 – 4 at the final whistle. But it wasn’t the same in the League though. Brian Jeffries’ team pushed their way up to third position clobbering Little Harwood 10 – 0 on the way. The consistent Shane Kennedy led the rout with Joe Waller, Andrew Conroy, Matt James, Chris Holland and Ashley Jeffries joining in the goal spree.

Into the New Year the Under 12s under Alan Fearnhead were beginning to look a formidable team attaining top position, but a spell of bad weather knocked them down to second place. Alan and Paul Liles had instilled a “passing game” into the lads and their lofty position reflected the quality of their football. As the season drew to a close a 10 – 0 victory over Milltown Rangers – Ryan McBreen (4), Adam Nuttall (3), Andrew Moores (2) and one goal each from Andrew Coyne, Neil Tennant and Ryan Thomas-Fisher – and two draws against Bacup Borough and Ighten Leigh consolidated their position for them to finish runners-up, completing a very successful season.

The Under 13s completed their season with a creditable upper mid-table position. Besides the lows there were plenty of highs for Paul Clarke’s team in the New Year – a 4 – 1 victory over North Valley Dynamoes, with goals from Martyn Thompson, Andrew Craddock, Joe Marshall and Andrew Stubbs, and a 3 – 2 win during a tough encounter with Belvedere. Oliver Newby scored twice and Rupert Craddock snatched the winner.

Although the club was pleased to go ahead with two Under 18s senior teams the end result wasn’t quite what had been promised at the beginning of the season and there were lessons to be learnt. One of these being that the boys who play football at this level are the ones who want



Readstone United Under 11s, Accrington Boys League, 1996/97. Back row: Brian Jeffries, manager, Matthew James, Alex Haythornthwaite, Robbie St. John, David Thompson, Michael Fox, Joe Waller, Steve Neary, coach. Front row: Andrew Conroy, Shane Kennedy, Chris Holland, Murray Leach, Jordan Neary, Thomas Harper, Ashley Jeffries. (Photo: Author).

to play, the most talented, and as such are in great demand. Geoff Lambert, Craig McConnachie and the author often had to pick a team formed of players who were about to play their third match in a weekend – they turned out for Clitheroe Sixth Form on Saturday morning, a pub team on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning and Readstone United on Sunday afternoon. All these matches took their toll, players turned up carrying injuries, or called off at the last moment or just didn’t turn up at all. We lost count of the number of matches where we had the bare minimum of 11 to choose from and on some occasions even less. As a consequence results suffered.

The Burnley League side was hit worst of all. During one week Craig’s team fought out a 2 – 2 draw with league leaders Junior Clarets, goals coming from Tom Bartlett and Andrew Whaites, and the next week with a much weakened team struggled to hang on to a scoreless draw with the bottom club, Burnley Boys Club.

The season finally came to an end for the Blackburn League team with

two draws – the first a 2 – 2 result against Padiham, both goals coming from Matthew Rung, who had developed into a very good footballer, and secondly, a 4 – 4 result against Euxton Villa, from Leyland. The goals on this occasion came from Matthew, Liam Carter and Liam Deasey, who played only one season for the club, but whose undoubted talent and consistency earned him the Player of the Season Award.

Although there was talk of a second season at Under 18 level the committee decided in the end not to continue with the experiment and to invest its money and resources into the teams at the younger end of the club, bringing them on and hopefully, start a senior team in five years time. Once again it was a hard decision for the club to make, especially as some of the team, such as Tom Bartlett, Simon Best, John Cooper, Chris Eaves, Jonathan Dugdale, Andrew Whaites, Gareth Houghton and Steven Clarke had been with Readstone from its earliest days.

The Under 9s – or the “Mud Pies” as manager, David Tinker, affectionately nicknamed them – finished their season as runners-up in the North Valley Friendly League by beating Milltown Wanderers 5 – 1 and completed a very successful first campaign. But the real success for Readstone came in the Accrington League with Brian Jeffries’ Under 11s team.

Over the years the club had been very successful in the Consolation Cup and 1997 was no exception. In the first round Readstone crushed Great Harwood 7 – 0 to progress through to the semi’s – Shane Kennedy and Chris Holland both grabbed hat-tricks and Ashley Jeffries chipped in with the seventh. In the semi-finals Readstone took on St. Joseph’s and dug out a hard-earned 3 – 1 victory – Shane and Chris once again sharing the goals with Matthew James.

And so to the final at The Arbories, the home of Padiham F.C., when on a mild spring evening Readstone took on North Valley Dynamos. The game see-sawed back and forth, North Valley were no pushovers, but with a tremendous team effort and the persistence of striker Shane Kennedy, who grabbed a hat-trick, the balance fell in favour of Readstone United and the club ran out 3 – 1 victors, to ensure there was a trophy in the cabinet once again at the end of the season.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...



“I HAVE just retired as manager of the Under 12s team and have had most of the fourteen man squad under my control since they were seven years old. Like most young lads they joined us with all the enthusiasm in the world, but not much football sense. None of them had the “gift” but nonetheless all had potential.

I can recall some disasters since I took over five years ago, none more so than the 0 – 24 defeat at the hands of Langho which left me speechless. And worse than that I remember being 3 – 0 up at half time against Great Harwood Rovers in the Cup and finishing up 3 – 4 down at the final whistle – I lost my voice on that occasion. You could hear a pin drop in the dressing room after that match!

In sharp contrast I’ll never forget winning the Sportsman’s Trophy, Freer Cup, Consolation Cup and the League Player of the Year Trophy all in the same 1996/97 season.

The Consolation Cup Final held at Padiham’s Arbories ground against North Valley Dynamos will probably remain my fondest memory. We were determined to win and with this in mind, Steve Neary and

I got all the lads together the day before the match to prepare them for what was to come. Cup final day dawned wet and with a large crowd eagerly anticipating a good game, nerves proved a problem for us all.

What followed in the next 70 minutes was for me one of the most nerve racking experiences of my life, but the elation at winning 3 – 1 was something else.

The celebration after the match will surely never be forgotten by the players and parents alike.

The 1997/98 season saw our inclusion into the Hyndburn League and amongst some very strong teams. I’m proud of the lads, they seldom let us down, win or lose their desire to play good football remains.

On the humorous side I remember David Thompson, our goalkeeper, parrying a shot over his head and goal bound. David turned through 180° and caught the ball on the line! On a personal note I gained real satisfaction when Shane Kennedy went for a trial at Blackburn Rovers. I don’t agree with the School of Excellence system, but it

proved we were producing quality players. For anyone who is considering some involvement with Readstone my advice is simple, give it a go, you’ll not regret it. It’s hard work, but one of the most rewarding things you can do. I’d like to say thank you to all parents who help in some way, without their continued support we just couldn’t manage. Come on you Blues! ☺

– Brian Jeffries.



Readstone United cup winners. Brian and the lads celebrate their victory at the Arbories. (Photo: Author).

The Ribble Valley Junior 5-a-side Football Tournament – A Football Extravaganza!



IT WAS at the end of the 1990/91 season that Readstone United held its first Junior 5-a-side Football Tournament on Read School Field. There were two age groups – 11s and 12s – and sixteen teams took part.

In contrast, over the third weekend of June 1998 the club held its sixth tournament in association with Clitheroe Wolves at Roefield, Clitheroe, when over 600 boys aged between eight and 16 from 88 teams competed.

The tournament is now a firm annual fixture in local junior football circles, attracting teams from all over Lancashire, as far apart as Fleetwood, Wigan and Todmorden.

The planning of the tournament starts in the previous December and takes six months to come to fruition. A pleasing aspect of the tournament is the involvement of the Wolves, as the two committees work together, putting aside their local rivalry, raising funds, organising sponsorship, recruiting teams and ironing out the numerous small problems.

Over the years, Readstone and the Wolves have both been prominent in winning the competition proving the Ribble Valley has some very talented young footballers.

At the time of writing England had just come home from the World Cup in France where the sensational Michael Owen had just stamped his mark on the world stage. Four years ago young Owen would have been playing in similar competitions to our Tournament.

In four years time its quite conceivable that the next "Michael Owen" once played in the Readstone Ribble Valley Tournament.



Above: Matthew Ward, captain of the Reastone Under 16s team, receives the winning trophy from LFA representative David Richardson at the 1997 Tournament. (Photo: Author).

Readstone teams from the 1998 Tournament





Readstone United Under 14s, Burnley Youth League, 1997/98. Back row: Paul Clarke, manager, Martyn Thompson, Robert Simpson, Rupert Craddock, Tom Smith, Andrew Stubbs, James Fletcher, Hudson Parsons. Front row: Andrew Bennett, Jordan Wright, Tom Chadwick, Karl Holmes, Joseph Marshall, Oliver Clarke, Andrew Bennett. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United Under 13s, Burnley Youth League, 1997/98. Back row: Alan Fearnhead, manager, Paul Liles, Roger Carins, Andrew Moores, James Huggon, Danny Liles, Neil Holden, Sam Brydges, Nick Harbour, Ian Nuttall. Front row: Duncan Fearnhead, Ryan McBreen, Tom Fearnhead, Adam Nuttall, Keiron Monks, Jamie Dunbar, Andrew Coyne. (Photo: Author).

10 No continental imports

1997-1998



THE 1997/98 season was a milestone in Readstone's history, not just because it was 10 years since the first seeds of the club were sown, but also because it was the first season that all the teams were made up players who had come through from the club nursery. Not only was this an achievement but it was most satisfying to all connected with the club because it reflected the club's original aim of "providing football activity for the children of Read, Simonstone and surrounding area," a policy outlined in the club's constitution drawn up by John Hill and the committee back in 1989 – which in effect meant no "Premiership Continental Imports!"

The new season brought a new team and management personnel to the younger end of the club – Steve Laurie and Andrew Sharpley took over as manager and coach of the Under 8s. Phil Tyreman and his team moved up to Under 9s level and prepared for their first season of competitive football in the North Valley Junior Friendly League.

Following their success in the North Valley, David Tinker took his Under 10s team into the Burnley Warburtons Youth League and Paul Thomas-Fisher moved his team up to the Under 11s in the same League.

Similarly, Alan Fearnhead and team moved up to Under 13s level in the Burnley League, as did Paul Clarke with his Under 14s. Brian Jeffries, however, was the exception and instead of the customary practice of moving into the Burnley League, decided instead to enter his team into the Hyndburn Boy's Football League, a move which greatly pleased the committee as the club had had many happy and successful years playing under the Hyndburn umbrella.

As is always the case, all the teams kicked off the new season with their customary air of confidence and great expectation. The Under 9s were quickly into their stride, setting the pace with an 11 – 0 victory over Trawden Celtic. Gary Bowker showed the pre-season hadn't dampened his goal poaching skills, promptly bagging a double hat-trick.

The Under 10s followed suit with a 5 – 0 win against Brierfield Celtic. Man of the match, Gregory Kerr scored twice in a good all-round team



Readstone United Under 12s, Hyndburn Boys League, 1997/98. Back row: Michael Fox, Joe Waller, Alex Haythornthwaite, David Thompson, Ashley Jeffries. Front row: Matthew James, Andrew Conroy, Chris Holland, Thomas Harper, Shane Kennedy, Jordan Neary. (Photo: Author).

performance, with Steve James and John Thompson sharing the other goals. There was also an excellent start for the Under 11s: first a 4 – 3 win over Brierfield Celtic which was followed by a 4 – 0 victory over Colne Clarets. Andrew Tinker and Johnny Burbridge scored in both matches. The two wins were followed by a 2 – 2 draw with Barnoldswick Park Rangers.

The step up from the Accrington Boy's League to the Hyndburn League proved difficult for the Under 12s having been seeded in a higher division following their cup victory the previous season. At the start of the new season there was a hard-earned 3 – 2 win over Haslingden Boys for starters, with goals from Shane Kennedy, Matthew James and Andrew Conroy, which was followed by an even harder match in the first round of the cup when they defeated Darwen Rangers 4 – 3. Shane Kennedy confirmed his goal scoring touch with a hat-trick and Thomas Harper chipped in with the fourth.

The Under 12s were not the only Readstone United team who were feeling the pinch following their previous season's success. Alan



Readstone United Under 11s, Burnley Youth League, 1997/98. Back row: Paul Thomas-Fisher, manager, Michael Ellis, Martin Greenwood, Andrew Tinker, Robert Cresswell, Daniel Smith. Front row: Greg Williams-McClean, Thomas Harling, Kyle O'Connor, Ryan Thomas-Fisher, Johnny Burbridge, Mark Bennett, Philip Greenwood. (Photo: Author).

Fearnhead's Under 13s moved up to a higher division and with it a higher standard of football. The team lost most of its early matches, not by great margins but mostly by the odd goal. The lads were competing well but just weren't getting the breaks and sadly being punished by the opposition for the odd mistake. This could be seen when they lost 0 – 2 to Colne Clarets which was followed up by a 1 – 2 defeat by Borrowdale United. In the latter match they led 1 – 0 thanks to a Ryan McBreen goal right up until the last 10 minutes, then let the match and consequently the points slip away. All the team and the manager concluded if they were to progress then they would have to show more resolve.

The Under 14s welcomed back striker Andrew Bennett from Whalley for the start of the new season, which reunited the Bennett/Stubbs/Thompson partnership that had been so devastating three seasons before. Their start to the season however, was a little inconsistent and it was mid-October before they got into gear. Two wins over local rivals Clitheroe Wolves, whom they had never beaten before, proved the catalyst.

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

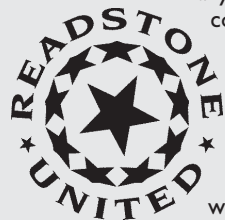
“IT HAS been a very rewarding 12 months since I took over as manager of the Under 8s last year. In that short time I have seen them change from a pack chasing a ball to a team who know their positions and how to pass the ball around. They have given all who watch them many moments of enjoyment.

One of these magical moments which springs to mind concerns what was probably the goal of the season. It was the first game of a “round robin” competition at Whalley, in the game between Readstone and Whalley “B”. Thomas Laurie made a timely tackle and came out with the ball, his pass found Jaryd Wallis who had gone on to the right wing. Jaryd

controlled the ball and then went passed a defender. Looking up, he saw Tim Rakshi, who had sprinted the length of the field. As the cross came over from Jaryd, Tim met it with a header which screeched passed the keeper ballooning the net.

Many of the parents looking on couldn't quite believe what they had seen. The goal, which proved to be the winner, was of a quality far beyond the years of children who were aged just seven at the time!

As a pleasing finale, Readstone won three of their games, drew the other and won the competition – a great start to what, hopefully, will be a team to follow in the footsteps of other Readstone greats. ♡ – Steve Laurie.



Steve Laurie with the Readstone United Under 8s – the stars of the future! Back row: Kieran Laycock, Thomas Laurie, Matthew Sharpley, Tim Rakshi, Jordan Finch. Front row: Ben Williams, Johnny Kennedy, Jamie Bury. (Photo: Author).

Andrew Stubbs and Andy Bennett both bagged hat-tricks in the first game which ended up 6 – 4 in Readstone's favour. Andy then went on to grab a further two in the second match with the other goals coming from Thomas Chadwick, Rupert Craddock and Oliver Newby.

In November Andrew Stubbs struck a rich vein of form, scoring in every match, and was rewarded by a call up to the Burnley Under 14s Inter-League squad.

There was no shortage of goals in the Under 14s matches which proved most enjoyable to spectators. Sometimes, however, it was a nail-biting affair for the management as the team also tended to concede a few goals as Newcastle United did under Kevin Keegan. In one particular match against White Horse Colts, at Padiham, Readstone went three up in the first 10 minutes, then promptly went to sleep, and allowed White Horse to get back into the game with three gift goals. A good rollicking at half time by Paul Clarke and Peter Stubbs, a change in tactics and attitude put Readstone back on course in the second half as they scored a further five goals, and the game ended up as an 8 – 5 victory. The goals scorers that mild November day were man of the match Andrew Stubbs, four, Scott



Readstone United Under 10s, Burnley Youth League, 1997/98. Back row: John Thompson, Gregg Kerr, Matthew Whitwell, Robert Webster, Andrew Hargreaves, Paul Worthington, Steve James, David Tinker, manager. Front row: Michael Whittaker, Daniel Campbell, Martin Pollard, Ben Heap, Anthony Freeman. (Photo: Author).

Robinson, two, and one each for Andy Bennett and Robert Simpson.

As Christmas approached each Readstone team prepared a mid-term report for the local newspaper. The Under 8s, although not playing competitive football, had played seven friendly games and were unbeaten having won six and drawn one. Manager Steve Laurie reported the lads were very committed and developing their ball skills. Jamie Bury was top scorer with 13 goals.

Phil Tyreman's Under 9s team were having an excellent first season in the North Valley League. They also were unbeaten, having played nine games, winning seven and drawing two and had scored 42 goals, of which Gary Bowker had contributed 25.

David Tinker's Under 10s were fourth in the league and had played 10 games, winning five and drawing two. They had scored 33 goals and leading scorer Stephen James had netted nine of them. David reported the team were playing attractive football and very keen. Unfortunately, the team's success was slightly dampened with some sad news as David reported he would be unable to carry on with the Under 10s managership due to ill-health. Without hesitation one of the parents, Steve Whitwell, much to his credit stepped in at very short notice and took over.

Paul Thomas-Fisher reported the Under 11s were currently holding a mid-table position having played nine games, winning four and drawing one. Team spirit was high and they had scored 26 goals. The leading scorer was Andrew Tinker who had notched up 10 of them.

The Under 12s in the Hyndburn Boys' League were also occupying a mid-table position but finding the going tough. They had played 15 games and won six. Brian thought they should have had more success for all the hard work they had put in.

The first half of the season had been disappointing for the Under 13s reported manager, Alan Fearnhead. They had worked and trained hard but struggled to come to terms with the higher grade of football and as a consequence were occupying bottom place in the division. But he reported team spirit was excellent and believed it would only be a matter of time before results improved.

Despite an indifferent start to the season the Under 14s were now joint leaders of the league and averaging 5.6 goals per game. Andrew Stubbs was top scorer with 17 goals and manager Paul Clarke reported the team had moved into top gear and as such were looking for poll position.

Into the New Year, the second half of the season carried on in much the



The Foulridge Minors' keeper finds Martin Pollard's shot too hot to handle and can only push the ball on to the crossbar and over the goal line for Readstone to take the lead in the North Valley League's Junior Cup Final, at Holt House, Colne. (Photo: Author).



Readstone United's victorious North Valley Junior League Cup winners, 1997/98. Back row: Sam Mercer, Chantelle McCormack, Tom Marsh, Gary Bowker, Shaun Laure, Jamie Ball, Adam Sharples, Peter Simpson, Chris Holt. Front row: Luke Vercoe, Scott Wilkinson, Oliver Tyreman, Martin Pollard, Alex Bryce. (Photo: Author).

same way as the first – the Under 8s continued with their friendly matches at Altham School in preparation for their entry into competitive football next season; whilst the 10, 11 and 12s teams held their mid-table positions. The Under 12s also reached the semi-finals of the Accrington Lions Cup but were unable to overcome a strong Langho Juniors side and lost 0 – 2.

After a lot of hard work and dedication the Under 13s responded to the coaching of their manager and pulled themselves off the foot of the table. There was also a degree of success for them in the end of season cup competition when they reached the semi-finals.

But it was the 9s and 14s who set the pace in the run-in for honours. The Under 14s were in contention in both the league and cup. In the league they continued their fine run which included an excellent 3 – 0 victory over Junior Clarets, with “Stubbsy” scoring twice and Joseph Marshall getting the third. But alas, their unbeaten run came to an end in the penultimate game of the season when they lost to the eventual champions, Colne Clarets, 0 – 2 at Roefield. Readstone went one down mid way through the first half which put the lads out their stride. After the interval they threw everything at the Clarets, Stubbsy hit the crossbar, Andy Bennett had two excellent shots saved, but eventually Colne got back into the game and hit Readstone on the break to take the points and also a well-deserved championship.

In the cup they had an emphatic 8 – 2 victory over Foulridge Minors which sent them into the semis. Joseph Marshall scored his first hat-trick for the club, with Oliver Clarke, Hudson Parsons and James Fletcher sharing the other goals. In the semi-final they drew Clitheroe Wolves and despite going a goal down just before half-time they came back with a vengeance in the second half, Man of the Match Andrew Stubbs snatched a hat-trick, which included a 30 yard drive, and Andrew Bennett got the fourth for Readstone to run out 4 – 1 winners.

The final at the end of May was against Junior Clarets, at the Anchor ground, Darwen. Readstone went into the game cold, having completed their league fixtures over a month before, whilst the Clarets who had a backlog fixtures and been playing two games a week in an attempt to clear the backlog, were up and ready for the game. The Clarets were quickly into their stride and vastly improved from when Readstone had beaten them earlier in the season, and soon took the lead. Apart from two snap shots from Stubbs and Bennett the Clarets defence kept the Readstone

attack in check, whilst their midfield tore through our defence to create numerous chances. The final score was 1 – 5 with second half substitute Hudson Parsons getting Readstone’s consolation goal.

Over in the North Valley League the Under 9s were playing out a similar scenario. As the final run in started Readstone were top of the table but their nearest rivals had games in hand. In the final weeks Readstone beat Coates Cougars 7 – 1 with goals from Gary Bowker, Shaun Laurie, Thomas Marsh, Martin Pollard and Chris Holt, but were then surprisingly beaten 1 – 6 by Colne Clarets and drew 1 – 1 with Foulridge Colts. Readstone never recovered from the lost points and effectively waived goodbye to the championship title.

But lessons were quickly learnt and in the cup competition Salterforth Boys felt the repercussions in the semi-finals. On a wet and cold day Readstone powered to a 6 – 0 victory – Oliver Tyreman was outstanding and well-deserved the man of the match award – earning themselves a place in the final against Foulridge Minors, at Colne Dynamoes’ ground.

The first half of the final was goalless and contested well between two evenly matched teams. Readstone took the lead shortly after half time

when a snap shot by Martin Pollard proved too powerful for the Minors’ keeper who could only push the ball up on to the underside of the crossbar and watch agonisingly as it fell over the goal line. But the Minors were made of stearn stuff and equalised in their next attack. Never has the football saying been more true, “You’re always at your most vulnerable after having scored a goal.”

At the final whistle the score remained 1 – 1 and extra time followed. Despite both teams going close neither could press home an advantage and so it came down to penalties to determine the winners.

Readstone went off first with leading scorer Gary Bowker converting his spot kick. The Minors equalised. Scott Wilkinson stepped up for the second penalty and scored. The Minors equalised



Andrew Stubbs – selected for the Burnley Under 14s Inter-League team, November 1997 and voted Under 14s Player of the Year for the Burnley League.
(Photo: Author).

again. Readstone's third penalty taker was Thomas Marsh who made no mistake with his penalty – 3 – 2 for Readstone. For the third Minors' penalty Readstone 'keeper Shaun Laurie held his ground and saved it. If Readstone were to score their next penalty they would go 4 – 2 up, and Adam Sharples duly obliged.

The pressure was now on Foulridge and they had to convert their next penalty if they were to stay in the competition. As the Minors' striker began his run-up, Shaun Laurie made a slight movement to his right, before diving to his left and saving the spot kick. Shaun had won the cup for Readstone and as such had earned himself and his teammates the distinction of being a cup winner – their names to be proudly displayed alongside other Readstone greats who had achieved a similar distinction, like Stephen Clarke, Sam Marshall, James Howorth, John Cooper, Jonathan Dugdale, Chris Eaves, Michael Jones, Adrian Hartley, Thomas Little, Bevan Scarborough, Michael Garner, Shane Kennedy and Ashley Jeffries. And not forgetting, Chantelle McCormack. But "she's only a girl!" and girls don't win trophies! But this one did, and she did it with Readstone United – now one of the leading names in Lancashire junior football.



Two young Readstoners with BBC sports presenter Peter Stevenson at the 1998 Presentation Evening at Padiham Town Hall. (Photo: Author).

FROM THE TOUCHLINE...

“The past two years have been a remarkable time for my team and I. This year we won the North Valley Friendly League Cup Competition and came runners-up in the league – a stunning achievement to our first season in competitive football.

Along the way there have been many numerous highlights including one funny moment when I took the team to play at Brunlea.

Normally most young teams get changed in cars before matches because there aren't facilities, however, Brunlea are an exception, who have excellent facilities with changing room and showers. On this particular occasion Readstone marched into the changing rooms and the first one quickly came out shouting, “Mr Tyreman, they've got showers!”, to which they all ran in and stood in the shower cubicles. They wouldn't be moved and it was the first and probably only time when I had to give a team talk surrounded by plumbing and tiles.

One of my most cherished moments was in a match against Barrowford Celtic when Oliver Tyreman scored a memorable goal. The ball was laid back to him on the half way line, he lifted it on to his knee, juggled it a couple of times and as the ball fell back down he hit it on the volley straight over the goal-keeper into the net.

The week before David Beckham had done the same thing and the obvious similarity between the two strikes drew the response of “Doing a Beckham” from his teammates, but Oliver would have none of it and said so quite emphatically due to him being a City fan!

The other highlight which stands out vividly in my mind was in the game against Fulfilledge Colts. It was 0 – 0 at half time



Phil Tyreman and Chantelle McCormack with the North Valley League cup – “the girl's done well!” (Photo: Author).

and I was looking to break the deadlock so I decided to bring on my secret weapon – Chantelle McCormack. Don't misunderstand me, Chantelle is a talented footballer, reads the game well and is as good as any boy of her age.

When Chantelle took the tracksuit off and lined up with the lads for the restart you could hear giggles and remarks from the opposition such as, “It's only a girl!” Believing she was a pushover they didn't bother to mark her. The first time she got the ball, she jinked past four defenders on a mazy 40 yards run, drew the keeper and slammed the ball home – goal! As she ran back to the centre circle with a big smile on her face, I could hear the same boys shouting, “Somebody mark that girl!”

– Phil Tyreman.

Readstone United Player Register



1989-1998

Abbott, Jack
Abbott, Mark
Almond, Thomas
Alston, Richard
Anderson, Andrew
Armstrong, Scott
Ashcroft, Stuart
Ashe, John

Bailey, Anthony
Bailey, Mark
Ball, Jamie
Baker, Christopher
Barrett, Paul
Barritt, Andrew
Bartlett, Thomas
Beckett, Marc
Beer, Matthew
Bennett, Andrew R. M.
Bennett, Andrew M. J.
Bennett, Ashley
Bennett, Christopher
Bennett, Duncan
Bennett, Mark
Bennett, Russell
Beresford, John
Best, Simon
Bewley, Ross
Bibby, James
Bignell, Matthew
Birch, Matthew
Birkett, Ryan
Blackett, Wayne
Blackledge, Andrew
Blythe, Andrew
Booth, Andrew
Booth, Timothy
Boothman, Sean
Boswell, Robert
Bowen, Nicholas
Bowker, Gary
Bowman, Lee
Bracewell, Paul
Braithwaite, Howard
Brice, Gareth
Brice, Alex
Brierley, Richard
Brown, Ashleigh
Brown, Craig
Brydges, Sam
Burbridge, John
Burgess, David
Burns, Anthony
Bury, Jamie

Campbell, Daniel
Campbell, David
Cant, Michael
Cavanagh, Kristian
Carins, Roger
Carter, Liam
Cartledge, Neil
Cassidy, Daniel
Chadwick, Thomas
Chesworth, John
Ciezarek, Andrew
Clark, Stephen
Clarke, Oliver
Clarkson, Wesley
Cassidy, Daniel
Clement, Richard
Cocker, John
Conroy, Andrew
Cooper, John
Coyne, Andrew
Craddock, Rupert
Cresswell, Robert
Crook, James
Cropper, Richard
Cullis, Michael

Dalby, Matthew
Dalby, Michael
Daly, Peter
Dandy, Howard
Darbyshire, Mark
Davey, Peter
Davies, Ian
Davis, Daniel
Deasey, Liam
Del Strother, David
Derbyshire, Lee
Devine, Robert
Dickinson, Simon
Dillon, Steven
Dixon, Gavin
Dixon, Steven
Dobie, Matthew
Drury, James
Duckworth, Andrew
Duckworth, Robert
Dugdale, Jonathan
Dugdale, Peter
Dunbar, James
Dunn, Simon
Dyson, David

Eaves, Christopher
Edmundson, Steven
Ellis, Michael

England, Simon
Fairburn, Ben
Fawcett, Peter
Fazackerley, James
Fearnhead, Duncan
Fearnhead, Thomas
Finigan, Anthony
Firth, Peter
Fisher, Anthony
Fishlock, Matthew
Fletcher, James
Ford, Andrew
Fox, Michael
Freeman, Anthony
Freeman, Ben
French, Mark
Furnborough, Paul
Fyldes, Paul

Galpin, Christopher
Gandy, James
Gandy, Jonathan
Gardner, Robert
Gardner-Chan, David
Garner, Jamie
Garner, Michael
Garstang, Steven
Geddis, Paul
Gibbons, Anthony
Gray, Lewis
Greaves, Philip
Green, Christopher
Greenall, Christopher
Greenwood, Martin
Greenwood, Philip
Greenwood, Stephen

Hankinson, David
Hanson, Arron
Harbour, Nick
Hargreaves, Andrew
Hargreaves, Mark
Harling, Paul
Harper, James
Harper, Joseph
Harper, Thomas
Hart, Damian
Hartley, Adrian
Haworth, Ian
Haythornthwaite, Alex
Haythornthwaite, Roger
Heap, Benjamin
Heinicke, Nicholas
Hetherington, Robert
Hill, Anthony

Lambert, Andrew
Lambert, Richard
Laurie, Shaun
Laurie, Thomas
Lavelle, John
Laverty, Christopher
Laycock, Keiron

Hill, Craig
Hindle, Matthew
Hindle, Thomas
Hitchen, Dean
Hodobod, Alex
Holden, Darryl
Holden, Luke
Holden, Neil
Holland, Christopher
Hollander, Grant
Holmes, Carl
Holroyd, Robert
Holt, Christopher
Horan, Mark
Horrocks, Stuart
Houghton, Gareth
Howarth, James
Howarth, Tony
Howarth, James
Hudson, Steven
Huggon, James

Ibbotson, James
Ingham, Christopher

Jackson, Warren
Jaggs, David
Jaggs, Mark
Jaggs, Paul
Jaggs, Steven
James, Matthew
James, Steven
Jarvis, Simon
Jeffries, Andrew
Jeffries, Ashley
Johnson, James
Jones, Andrew
Jones, Michael

Kay, Dominic
Kennedy, John
Kennedy, Shane
Kerr, Gregory
Kirk, Andrew
Knight, Christopher
Knowles, Jonathan
Kostilek, Adam

Lambert, Andrew
Lambert, Richard
Laurie, Shaun
Laurie, Thomas
Lavelle, John
Laverty, Christopher
Laycock, Keiron

Leach, Murray
Leaver, John
Leedham, Gareth
Liles, Andrew
Liles, Daniel
Lindley, Stephen
Lister, Thomas
Little, Thomas
Littley, Benjamin
Locke, Daniel
Locke, David
Longton, Rory
Longworth, Tony
Lyles, Daniel

McBreen, Ryan
McCormack, Chantelle*
McGauley, Philip
McLoughlin, Philip
McNally, Michael
Magee, Patrick
Makin, Sam
Maloney, Luke
Marsh, Thomas
Marshall, Joseph
Marshall, Sam
Massimo, Gianluca
Massimo, Leno
Mayoh, Chad
Mercer, Jack
Mercer, Sam
Monks, Kieron
Moon, Liam
Moores, Andrew
Mulhearn, Christopher
Murray, James

Neary, Jordan
Nerny, William

Newby, Oliver
Nowell, Alastair
Nowell, Oliver
Nuttall, Adam

O'Connor, Kyle

Palmer, Ewan
Parsons, Hudson
Passmore, Adam
Peel, Martin
Perrin, Stephen
Pickles, Christopher
Pierce, Thomas
Pike, Stephen
Pinch, Warren
Pirrie, Ryan
Pollard, Martin

Ramshead, Mark
Rakshi, Edward
Rakshi, Timothy
Rigg, David
Roberts, Steven
Rogan, Nathan
Rung, Matthew
Rushton, Andrew
Rushton, Daniel
Ryding, Simon

St John, Robert
Sagar, Paul
Salisbury, Sheldon
Scarborough, Bevan
Scarborough, Duncan
Schofield, Gary
Sharples, Adam
Sharples, Daniel
Sharpley, Matthew

*Chantelle McCormack holds the distinction of being the only girl to play competitive football with a Readstone United boys' team over the first 10 years.

Simpson, Peter
Simpson, Robert
Sisson, Dean
Slater, Lee
Smith, Christopher
Smith, Daniel
Smith, Gary
Smith, Greg
Smith, Matthew
Smith, Nick
Smith, Thomas
Spence, Daniel
Spencer, Ashley
Stanworth, Shaun
Staszkievicz, Rowan
Stewart, Christopher
Stone, Richard
Stones, William
Stubbs, Andrew
Sturrock, Darren
Sudderick, Ashley

Tanti, Matthew
Tennant, Neil
Thomas, Robert
Thomas-Fisher, Matthew
Thomas-Fisher, Ryan
Thompson, David
Thompson, John
Thompson, Martyn
Thorn, Oliver
Tinker, Andrew
Tinker, Philip
Tomlinson, Simon
Torbett, Matthew
Townson, Christopher
Trainer, Steven
Trickett, Craig
Tunstall, Andrew

Turner, Peter
Tyreman, Oliver

Veevers, Nicholas
Vercoe, Luke

Waddington, James
Wade, Philip
Wallis, Jaryd
Walsh, Robert
Waterhouse, Simon
Waller, Joseph
Ward, Matthew
Warne, Gavin
Watson, Liam
Watson, Paul
Webster, Richard
Webster, Robert
Whaites, Andrew
Whitehead, Damian
Whittaker, Andrew
Whittaker, David
Whittaker, Michael
Whitwell, Matthew
Wilde, Christopher
Wilkinson, Scott
Williams, Ben
Williams, Thomas
Williams-McLean, Greg
Wood, Edward
Worsh, John
Worsley, James
Worsley, Mark
Worthington, Paul
Wright, Jordan

Yates, Robert
Yeoman, Gavin

Readstone Girls Player Register 1991-1996

Ashley, Helen
Atkinson, Kathryn
Atkinson, Lindsey

Baldwin, Gemma
Baldwin, Kelly
Barlow, Olivia
Bartrop, Jenny
Bell, Caroline
Birkett, Aimee
Bracewell, Abby
Bracewell, Lauren

Canty, Nicola
Clarke, Victoria
Cullis, Kate

Eaves, Elizabeth
Edwards, Laura

Edwards, Lucy

Finn, Nina
Finn, Victoria
Freeman, Sammie

Greenwood, Carla

Hart, Victoria
Hindle, Jane
Howorth, Sarah

Jones, Aimee

Lambert, Victoria
Lane, Joanna
Lane, Katherine
Longton, Sophie

Mayers, Kate
Middleton, Carrie
Middleton, Natalie
Moores, Danielle
Moores, Shrona

Naughton, Sarah
Naughton, Terri

O'Connor, Rachael

Padgett, Jessica
Pickering, Arriane
Pickering, Jemma
Pickering, Joanna
Pickering, Natalie

Rowe, Charlotte
Rowe, Samantha

Rushton, Simone

Scholes, Jenny
Shepherd, Claire
Shepherd, Sarah
Stubbs, Victoria

Taylor, Jennifer
Tiffin, Emma

Waddington, Elizabeth
Waddington, Samantha
Whitwell, Louise
Wilkinson, Elizabeth
Wilkinson, Emma
Wood, Sally

Yeoman, Danielle

Managers and trophy winners



1990/91

Under 11s, Accrington Boy's League ▲ S. Neary, B. Yeoman, G. Lambert ♦ Matthew Ward ▼ Anthony Gibbons. **Under 12s**, Burnley Towneley League ▲ J. Hill, J. Stubbs, D. Eaves, M. Howorth, D. Marshall ♦ Jonathan Dugdale ▼ Sam Marshall. ● J. Hill.

1991/92

Under 10s, no league entered ▲ M. McGauley, P. Worsh, T. Baker, P. Clarke ♦ Andrew Bennett ▼ Paul Barratt ■ Joe Staszkiwicz. **Under 11s**, Accrington Boy's League ▲ A. Garner, P. Scarborough, T. French ▼ Matthew Ward ■ Danny Sharples. **Under 12s**, Hyndburn Boy's League, ▲ S. Neary, B. Yeoman, G. Lambert ♦ Simon Best ▼ Andrew Lambert/Jamie Garner ■ Adam Kostilek/Tom Bartlett. **Under 13s**, Burnley Towneley League ▲ P. Haworth, M. Howorth, D. Eaves, D. Marshall ♦ Sam Marshall ▼ Chris Eaves ■ Jonathan Dugdale. ● G. Lambert.

1992/93

Under 8/9/10s, no league entered ▲ P. Clarke, B. Jeffries, P. Stubbs, C. Ward ♦ Dominic Kaye ▼ Joseph Marshall ■ Andrew Bennett. **Under 11s**, Accrington Boy's League ▲ M. McGauley, P. Worsh ♦ Christian Cavanagh ▼ Thomas Almond ■ Andrew Ciezerak. **Under 12s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ A. Garner, P. Scarborough ♦ Danny Sharples/Mark Derbyshire ▼ Thomas Little ■ Thomas Little. **Under 13s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ S. Neary,

B. Yeoman ♦ Richard Lambert ▼ Nathan Rogan ■ Damien Hart. **Under 13s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ D. Bell, G. Lambert ♦ Mark Ramshead ▼ Chris Bennett ■ Sean Boothman. **Under 14s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ P. Haworth, M. Howorth, D. Eaves, D. Marshall ♦ Stephen Clark ▼ Eddie Wood ■ Stephen Clark. ● G. Lambert.

1993/94

Under 8/9/10s, no league entered ▲ P. Clarke, B. Jeffries, P. Stubbs ♦ Joseph Marshall ▼ Andrew Bennett ■ Oliver Clarke. **Under 11s**, Accrington Boy's League ▲ M. McGauley, P. Worsh ♦ Philip McGauley ▼ Andrew Barritt ■ Paul Watson. **Under 13s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ A. Garner, P. Scarborough ♦ Matthew Ward ▼ Ian Davies ■ Adrian Hartley. **Under 14s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ S. Neary, B. Yeoman ♦ Richard Webster ▼ Duncan Bennett/Gavin Yeoman ■ Neil Cartledge. **Under 14s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ G. Lambert, G. Beckett ♦ Tony Hill ▼ Gavin Dixon ■ Andrew Ford. **Under 15s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ D. Eaves, M. Howorth, D. Marshall, S. Clark (player/manager) ♦ Liam Carter ▼ Robert Devine ■ Stephen Clark. ● D. Eaves.

1994/95

Under 8/9/10s, no league entered ▲ B. Jeffries, A. Fearnhead, P. Liles ♦ Andrew Moores ▼ Ryan McBreen ■ Ryan McBreen. **Under 11s**, Accrington Boy's League ▲ P. Clarke, P. Stubbs ♦ Andrew Bennett ▼

Joseph Marshall ■ Andrew Bennett.

Under 13s, Hyndburn Boy's League ♦ A. Garner, P. Scarborough ♦ Martin Peel ▼ Alastair Nowell ■ Alastair Nowell. **Under 14s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ David Jones, Andrew Little ♦ Adrian Hartley ▼ Philip McLoughlin ■ Thomas Little.

Under 15s, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ C. Bennett, B. Yeoman, A. Best, G. Torbett ♦ Simon Best ▼ Adam Kostilek/Lee Bowman ■ Matthew Torbett. **Under 15s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ G. Lambert ♦ Simon Jarvis ▼ Andrew Lambert ■ Matthew Rung. **Under 16s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ D. Holden, D. Eaves, D. Marshall ♦ John Cooper ▼ Richard Cropper ■ Stephen Clark. ● P. Clarke.

1995/96

Under 8s, no league entered ▲ D. Tinker ♦ Steven James ▼ Adam Sharples. **Under 9s**, no league entered ▲ P. Thomas-Fisher ♦ Andrew Tinker ▼ Martin Greenwood. **Under 10s**, no league entered ▲ B. Jeffries ♦ Murray Leach ▼ Damien Whitehead ■ Kieron Monks. **Under 11s**, Accrington Boy's League ▲ A. Fearnhead, P. Liles ♦ Andrew Moores/Arron Hanson ▼ Jamie Dunbar ■ Roger Carins. **Under 12s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ P. Clarke, P. Stubbs ♦ Hudson Parsons ▼ Jordan Wright ■ Hudson Parsons. **Under 14s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ A. Garner, P. Scarborough ♦ Alastair Nowell ▼ Bevan Scarborough ■ Michael Garner. **Under 15s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ♦ Matthew Ward ▼ Paul Fyldes. **Under 16s**, Hyndburn Boy's League ▲ C. Bennett, A. Best, G. Torbett ♦ Simon Best ▼ Tom Bartlett ■ Chris Ingham. **Under 16s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ D. Eaves, G. Lambert ♦ Matthew Rung ▼ Simon England ■ Peter Firth/Matthew Rung. ● G. Lambert.

1996/97

Under 8s, no league entered ▲ P. Tyreman, D. Laurie ♦ Oliver Tyreman ▼

Adam Sharples/Chris Holt ■ Shaun Laurie.

Under 9s, North Valley Friendly League ▲ D. Tinker ▼ Matthew Whitwell ■ Gregory Kerr. **Under 10s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ P. Thomas-Fisher ♦ John Burbridge ▼ Ryan Thomas-Fisher ■ Andrew Tinker. **Under 11s**, Accrington Boy's League ▲ B. Jeffries, S. Neary ♦ Robert St. John ▼ Andrew Conroy ■ Thomas Harper. **Under 12s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ A. Fearnhead, P. Liles ♦ Ryan McBreen ▼ Kieron Monks ■ Ryan McBreen. **Under 13s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ P. Clarke, P. Stubbs ♦ Andrew Stubbs ▼ Thomas Chadwick ■ Thomas Smith. **Under 18s**, Blackburn Philanthropic Youth League ▲ D. Eaves, G. Lambert ♦ Liam Deasey ▼ John Cooper ■ Stephen Clark. **Under 18s**, Burnley Youth League ▲ C. McConnachie ♦ Andrew Whaites ▼ Nicholas Veevers ■ Simon Jarvis. ● D. Eaves.

1997/98

Under 8s, no league entered ▲ S. Laurie, A. Sharples ♦ Leon Bancroft ▼ Matthew Sharples ■ Tim Rakshi. **Under 9s**, North Valley Friendly League ▲ P. Tyreman, D. Laurie ♦ Oliver Tyreman ▼ Adam Sharples/Alex Brice ■ Thomas Marsh/Scott Wilkinson. **Under 10s**, Burnley Warburtons Youth League ▲ D. Tinker, S. Whitwell ♦ Andrew Hargreaves ▼ Daniel Campbell ■ Benjamin Heap. **Under 11s**, Burnley Warburtons Youth League ▲ P. Thomas-Fisher ♦ Ryan Thomas-Fisher ▼ Andrew Tinker ■ John Burbridge. **Under 12s**, Hyndburn McDonalds Youth League ▲ B. Jeffries, S. Neary ♦ Ashley Jeffries ▼ Michael Fox ■ Joseph Waller. **Under 13s**, Burnley Warburtons Youth League ▲ A. Fearnhead, P. Liles ♦ Tom Fearnhead ▼ James Huggon ■ Tom Fearnhead. **Under 14s**, Burnley Warburtons Youth League ▲ P. Clarke, P. Stubbs ♦ Oliver Clarke ▼ Andrew Stubbs ■ Joseph Marshall. ● P. Clarke.

Key to symbols:

▲ Manager and assistants ♦ Player of the Year ▼ Sportsman of the Year ■ Players Player of the Year ● Clubman of the Year.

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The Author and Readstone United Junior Football Club would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their financial support towards the production of this book, for without their assistance the project would never have come into existence.

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Readstone United

Code of Conduct

1. Study the laws of the game and play by them at all times.
2. Always play to win and practise improving your game in order to beat your opponent skilfully.
3. Always show respect for your opponents, and shake their hands at the end of each game, whether you win or lose.
4. Keep your own standards as high as possible in behaviour and attitude.
5. Show respect at all times to the referee and do not argue with him or his assistants.
6. Don't try to "referee" the game yourself by constantly appealing for throw-ins, free kicks, offsides, etc.
7. Don't lose your temper and retaliate if an opponent fouls you.
8. Don't strike another player.
9. Don't use foul and abusive language.
10. Don't use threatening and violent behaviour.
11. Don't be ungentlemanly in your conduct or use any unsporting gesture.





The emergence of the Premiership and satellite television coverage of football in the late 90's with high profile stars like Shearer, Bergkamp, Beckham, Laudrup, Zola, Giggs and Owen has left a great impression on the British game. And it's not only at the very top that the revolution can be felt.

Down at the grass roots junior football is equally as enthusiastic. *"Readstone United – 10 Years of Junior Football in Read and Simonstone"* tells the story of a village junior football team from its inception as a cub scout troop to a major youth organisation.

David Eaves, a keen football enthusiast and founder member of Readstone United, has been ideally placed to write this account and has witnessed first hand as a parent, team manager and committee member the phenomenal rise of the club.