

Stanford Junior and Infant

Sporting Review by Mr Emerson, July 2015

It has been another year where Stanford's sporting teams have batted above their league and yet again exceeded all expectations. A small school who has competed and in the main part beaten much larger schools.

The year started with the yr 3/4 boys winning the St James football trophy against St James, St Martins and Old Clee. It was a fantastic all round team display to go undefeated and win the trophy in the lovely surroundings of St James school.

Then the yr5/6 boys football team who having lost a great number of the team who had been so successful the previous year were not expected to be able to match what the team had previously done. They entered the Welholme Trophy in early October and started with an inauspicious draw against Wybers. However, they went on to win the following 5 matches in the tournament defeating Old Clee 1-0 in the final deciding match to claim the trophy and to have the honour of representing North East Lincs at the regional football tournament in Hull.

At the tournament at St Marys College in Hull they played by far the best football of any of the teams present and were unfortunate not to win the tournament. This was nothing to do with the players themselves, the referee in their first game was otherwise occupied and made vital errors which cost the team the victory they needed to progress to the final stage. They ended up finishing 4th which was scant reward for the fantastic performances they put in during their matches.

In the meantime they also had matches against Fairfield in the Ramsdens Trophy which they won 3-1 with a fantastic performance and also defeating on penalties a very strong Spring Cottage team from Hull in the Humberside Cup, with goalkeeper Riley H performing heroics during the penalty shootout.

Also during the winter the boys and girls from both yr5/6 and yr 3/4 took part in their respective indoor athletics competitions. There was some fantastic individual performances in both competitions, most notably the duo of James D and Harvey T who finished well over a lap ahead of all their competition in one of the sprint relay races. Both of the teams were unlucky to miss out on the finals by the matter of a few points.

The sport resumed again after the winter break with a comprehensive 10-0 victory over Estcourt Academy of Hull in the Humberside Cup and a very hard fought 2-0 win against a strong Healing team in the Ramsdens Trophy with captain Will M scoring two great goals, the second a thunderbolt from 30 yards.

Also taking place at this time was the New Age Kurling competition in which James C, Leo A, Freddie G and Theo B took part. The yr3/4 team of Freddie and Theo narrowly missed out on the final by 1 point, which in itself was a fantastic effort as they were competing against yr6 children.

The football continued for yr5/6 with a close 4-3 victory against Great Coates in the Gradely Cup on what must have been the smallest pitch many of them will have ever played on. The team then met Waltham Leas in the Ramdens Cup semi final. This was possibly the best performance of the season, totally dominating the game and playing some fantastic football winning the game 6-2 in front of quite a large crowd in Waltham.

The following month was one of ups and downs. The team met Hymers College of Hull in the Humberside Cup semi final on what was possibly the best surface many of them will ever play on. Unfortunately the boys didn't get going until they were 3-0 down and despite a late spirited comeback they went out 3-2 in a game that they possibly should have won.

They put this result behind them as they entertained Laceby Acres in the Gradely Cup semi final, totally blowing them away with an emphatic 11-2 victory booking their place in the final against Fairfield.

Then came the Ramdens Cup final at Blundell Park in what was a repeat of last years final against Old Clee. It was a game of two very evenly matched teams, however the loss of top scorer James Davies was a major blow and unbalanced a very settled team. The boys started well with king of the backwards goal Harrison R scoring with the back of his head. Old Clee then came back into the game and quickly equalised, they eventually went on to run out 3-1 winners reversing the result of the previous year.

The same week saw the area Scarr Wilce Tournament which brought together the top 4 teams in the area. Again James D was missing for this and with the loss after the first game of Harvey T due to illness it proved too much for such a small squad of players who tried really hard coming 3rd.

Tennis was next up with both the year 5/6's and year 3/4 taking part at the St James Tennis tournament. All 3 of the teams played some superb Tennis, consistently beating the opposition. All of the teams were in contention to win right up until the end, with one of the yr5/6 teams coming 4th with the other narrowly missing out by 1 point on winning the competition. The year 3/4 team also were runners up, meaning that they had qualified to represent North East Lincs at the Humber Youth Games.

Back to the football team who had the chance to put the Ramdens Cup Final defeat behind them when they faced Fairfield in the Gradely Cup Final. The boys meant business right from the off and absolutely tore apart a very physical Fairfield team quickly racing into a 4-0 lead with a fantastic display of skill, power and pace. The game was effectively won at this point, the boys seeing out the second half comfortably eventually winning the game 5-1. It was a fitting reward for all of the hard work and great performances that they had all put in throughout the year.

There was one more football tournament to compete in which was held at Bradley pitches. This gave an opportunity to a lot more of the boys to represent the school. Both the year 5/6 and 3/4 B teams played really well without a great deal of luck. They yr 3/4 A team played superbly and remained undefeated throughout, narrowly missing out on a semi final place by 1 goal. This left the year 5/6 A team who were put in a tough group. Yet again they rose to the occasion, coming through as group winners and undefeated with goal machine Tyler R finally breaking his duck with a stunning strike

from fully 6 inches out, he then followed that up with a superb free kick which he rifled into the top corner.

This led to yet another meeting with Old Clee in the semi final and as ever it was evenly matched, the game ending in a 0-0 draw. This meant the game going to sudden death penalties which unfortunately the boys lost. It was a sad way to end what has been a truly exceptional season and the whole squad has performed way above my expectations. They have all been a credit to both themselves and the school and without any doubt have been the best team and group of boys that I have had the honour to work with in over 15 years.

All of the boys who have represented the A team deserve a mention: Will Mullins (captain), Riley Haigh, Jake Patterson, Harrison Reeve, James Davies, Oliver Cannon, Harvey Tomlinson, Louis Boyd, George Etherington, Harry Clark, Ben McCarthy, Oliver Pickston and Tyler Reeve who has been the most improved player of the year.

The sporting year ended with the yr3/4 tennis team competing in the Humber Youth Games at Hymers College, Hull on a lovely sunny day in fantastic surroundings. Here they would be competing against the best teams from North East Lincs, East Riding, North Lincs and Hull. The team consisted of Emily R, Alice C, Connor H and Jake P.

After a shaky start they then went on to produce some fantastic displays winning game after game, only losing out to the eventual winners South Cave who had 2 Yorkshire representative players. At the end of the competition none of us had any idea where they had come, so whilst sat with hundreds of other people at the awards ceremony it came as a fantastic surprise to find out that they had come runners up in the competition way exceeding what I had hoped they would achieve. I was immensely proud of them as I have been with the efforts of all of the children who have represented the school at sport this year. It was a great way to end the sporting year.

I would like to thank all of the children for their efforts and also all of the parents who have helped support the teams and help out with lifts. I have greatly appreciated all of your help and support and without it a lot of what we have achieved wouldn't have happened.

I have enjoyed every second of this sporting year (well almost), and it has been an honour and a privilege to share the highs and lows with all of the children. I hope that the year 6s who are leaving continue to enjoy great success in whatever they do and that the younger children coming through continue to work hard to emulate the success we have enjoyed.

Mark Emerson