

5/11/2011

ETHA ENGOMI FRIENDLIES WITH APOEL

2002

In the first of the weekends clashes the 2002 team with some help from the 2001 B team, took on the Apoel 2001 B team and were very competitive for large portions of the match even though there was an age difference. The half-time score of 0-0 showed that the team were definitely up for the challenge but unfortunately two quick goals from Apoel in the 2nd half meant that it was an uphill task for the Arsenal youngsters. A more attacking formation was then adopted by coach Ara which saw Demetris Finiris pull one back for Arsenal and some late efforts from Kyriakos Florides were well saved by the Apoel goalkeeper when it appeared Arsenal would be drawing equal. With more bodies being pushed forward it meant that Nikolas Philipou's goal was left exposed and in a swift counter attack in the final minutes Apoel managed to restore their 2 goal lead to end the match 3-1.

2001

The second game saw both Apoel and Arsenal 2001 A teams take on each other. It also saw the return to the Arsenal team of Alex Paschalides after a week's absence and he marked his return with a bang, scoring a superb hat-trick. The first half ended 1-0 to Arsenal but it could have been more with Arsenal having the lion's share of the possession and peppering the Apoel goal with shots from all angles! The 2nd half was much of the same story as Arsenal dominated possession and saw that possession rewarded with 2 more goals from Alex as he completed his match winning performance. Coach Ara was very pleased with the performance and couldn't fault any of the team for their effort.

FUN FEVER TOURNAMENT @ DA LUZ

2003

Arsenal went into this tournament without their goalkeeper Lex Vitale which was a big blow for the team but had at their disposal the excellent Elias Costi. The group stage went very well for Arsenal considering they weren't fielding an orthodox keeper, beating Anorthosis 1-0, Enosis Kokkinotrimithias by the same score line and Fun Fever B team 3-0 to finish the group on top. In the quarter finals the team faced Young Stars who they had drawn with 3-3 in a pre-season friendly only 3 weeks ago but this time round Arsenal were much stronger and came out victors by 3 goals to nil. Unfortunately that was the end of the line for Arsenal in the tournament as the team came unstuck against a very strong Apoel side and even though they took the lead through Giorgos Christophi they conceded 4 second half goals and would have to play for 3rd place. In the final game Coach George fielded some of the more inexperienced players and even though they did their best they couldn't quite prize 3rd place. 4th position from 16 teams was not a bad showing and Coach George was very happy as everyone played well and many things that he had worked on in training were paying off.

2004

In their first tournament outing of the season the 2004 team did tremendously well, pleasing coach Ara immensely in the process! All the boys got a run out but unfortunately they didn't quite manage to qualify for the 2nd round after a very difficult set of matches in the group stage. Coach Ara though believes the team has a very promising future with some very talented youngsters coming through.

13/11/2011

NUEVO CAMPO 2003 3-2 ARSENAL 2003

On Saturday 13th of November we had two friendlies as the 2003 team played against their Nuevo Campo counterparts. Coach George was very pleased with the performance of the team and although the team lost out 3-2 in the end, all the players participated and enjoyed it thoroughly.

APOEL 2000 6-1 ARSENAL 2001

Across town the 2001 team were pitted against the Apoel 2000 team in another friendly match that ended in a 6-1 defeat for coach Ara's boys. The coach was very pleased with the performance, passion and commitment of the boys who were playing against visibly bigger and older boys.