

# News from the Pitch

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## Fall Season 2011 Comes to a Close

The 2011 fall season was full of great plays, lots of fun and a couple of weather anomalies!! Below is a recap of the season for our U12 Boys team:

**The U12 Boys competitive team** ended this season's campaign with a 4-1 victory in a placement game rematch with a feisty Vernon side. This team's success cannot be measured in its final record (1-7-1), but rather their improved individual skill and team tactics. The returning veterans provided a stable core while the young players filled vital roles at the front, thru the midfield and in the back. However, the most important attribute of this team was their desire to stick together, play hard and continue to fight in every game. This team's resiliency was admired by their coach and many of their opponents, as their best games were played against the stiffest of competition.

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## Player Profile: Anna Barry U12 Boys Comp Team

**Coach Dan Adanti took a few moments to answers some brief questions about one if the players on his team who took advantage of a great opportunity!**

**Question: How did Anna end up on a boys U12 competitive team?**

Coach Daniel Adanti: Due to less than expected enrollment at this particular age group, we explored a lot of opportunities for Anna, including playing with Hebron and Marlborough. However, after hearing about Anna's soccer ability and more importantly her personality, I knew she would be an impact player and immediately added her to my roster. I added her to my roster and then checked with her parents. I know that sounds backwards, but sometimes you just know.

**Question: How do you think Anna's season went with the boys U12 competitive team?**

I think the best people to ask that question are her teammates and the teams we played. She was a difference maker at the back, kept us in games and could match anyone on the field stride for stride. Often times at the beginning of games you would hear things from the opposing team about focusing on attacking Anna's side of the field. That mindset never lasted more than 5 minutes as she would turn them away time after time.

**Question: Would you have any advice for Anna going forward?**

Keep working on the left foot! It has come a long way but a solid left (or opposite foot) starts with the fundamentals and gets better with practice, effort and faith in your own ability to use it properly. Secondly, I think she may want to move up the field and play some wing as her speed is effortless and her touch on the ball has come a long way.

We're on the Web

[www.andoverctsoccer.com](http://www.andoverctsoccer.com)

and Facebook

Andover Youth Soccer  
Association (AYSA)

**Next Newsletter will be March 2012.**

## Fall Clean Up Day

The field took a considerable amount of wear and tear this fall so the Board initiated proactive steps to repair and prepare the field for a full spring season. On Saturday, November 19 a small but determined group assembled to spread fertilize, Lime and yes **grass seed**.

In addition, the volunteers dismantled the lower section of the kick back board to prevent future wash away from the spring floods. We will conduct similar field maintenance in the spring

so please bring a spreader and join us in making improvements to the fields your children play on.



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## Joining Forces to Provide Soccer to All

When speaking about older Division 5 Recreational teams with presidents and registrars of other soccer associations in our district, a common theme resounds; most clubs have a difficult time having enough players to field a team for the season. It's agreed that this occurs for a multitude of reasons. Many players ages 11 and older go to competitive teams, many have played soccer for a few years and choose to try another fall/spring sport, some lose interest in sports all together. One of the biggest challenges for soccer clubs trying to assemble older teams, is late or last minute registrations. Most parents are not aware that recreational teams must be submitted to the district 2 weeks prior to the start of games. We begin to assemble teams 3 to 4 weeks prior however, with the older teams, clubs are receiving applications for those 2 or 3 pivotal players needed to assemble the team too late.

Soccer Clubs respond to this in different ways. Most have strict late fees to encourage timely registration. AYSA, joined the surrounding towns by beginning to enforce a \$20 late fee this year in hopes of improving registration times. Local soccer clubs also work together to combine teams. This past fall, neither Marlborough nor Andover had enough boys or girls to field a U12 rec team. A few Andover girls had the opportunity to play on Marlborough U12 team. The U12 rec team for the boys was assigned to Andover. I had the pleasure of witnessing this combination of 6 boys from each town as they grew from a divisive group of strangers to a well organized team on the pitch. The focus and teamwork was clearly evident as they started to rack up wins at the end of the season, while never losing the sportsmanship and fun of recreational soccer.

Andover Youth Soccer plans to continue to work with our surrounding clubs to make sure all players of all ages have a place to play recreation soccer. We will also be looking at ways to complete our registration process in a timely manner to prevent future missed opportunities to create teams in our town.

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## Needs and A Headers

### Needs:

**There are many functions and opportunities to get involved in with are soccer association:**

**Fund Raising Coordinator**- An immediate opening to be an active member of the AYSA Board. Assist in creation and execution of fundraising campaigns with the support of the AYSA Board and families.

**Coaches and Asst. Coaches** at all levels, our enrollment in the U10 and Younger is very strong, more coaches to help on the sidelines is always welcomed

**Team Parents** If coaching is not your choice perhaps you can assist with coordinating team communications or snacks.

### A-headers:

**Published schedules and coach assignments** in February on our Website. This will help you plan your family calendar.

**British Soccer Camp** 7/16/12-7/20/12, early sign up at the following address:

<https://registration.challengersports.com/FindACamp/FindACamp.asp?Method=CampSession&Key=0%7C1%7C18473&~=>

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