

Lounge is renamed in honour of Ollie

› Family touched by football club support

By LEWIS RUDD

THE family of a young football fan who died of an incurable brain tumour were touched after his club renamed its players' lounge in his memory.

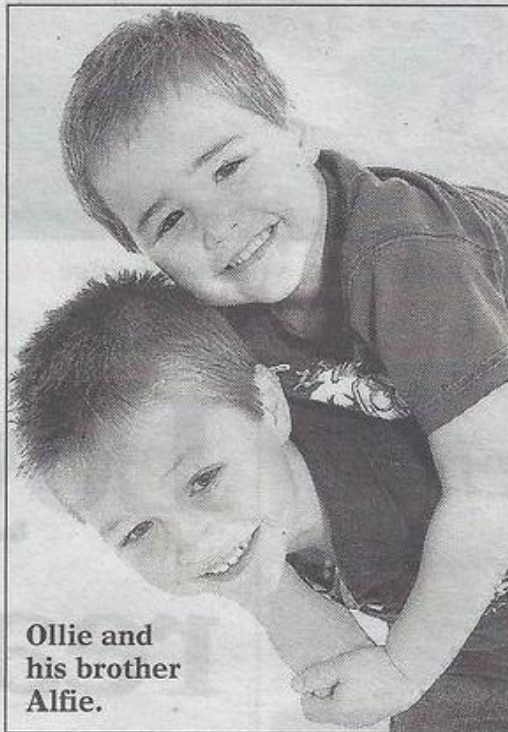
Former Finchampstead Football Club junior player Ollie Young died the day before his sixth birthday in February 2012.

Last Thursday his mum Sarah and brother Alfie joined the first team for the unveiling of the Ollie Young Players' Lounge at the Memorial Ground clubhouse.

Mrs Young, of Woosehill, said: "It is just amazing what they have done. I don't think I can put into words what this means to myself and my family.

"Ollie played football and absolutely loved it. Finchampstead FC have been amazing and we never expected anything like this to happen."

First team manager Jon Laugharne said: "When we found out about this young boy who used to play for Finch we were only too happy to help.



Ollie and his brother Alfie.

"We have renamed part of the clubhouse the Ollie Young Players' Lounge in his memory, which we hope players from both teams will use after a game at the Memorial Ground."

The Hellenic Division 1 East club

has been raising funds for the Ollie Young Foundation (OYF), which was set up by his parents to help provide funds and support research into a possible cure for the illness.

Mr Laugharne said the club has so far raised more than £800 through in-house club fines for poor performances and suspensions, which he hopes to build on before handing over a cheque to the charity at the end of the season.

First-team players have also been wearing foundation T-shirts during pre-match warm-ups before competitive fixtures.

The squad have OYF wrist bands, with members fined if they turn up for club duties not wearing them.

Mrs Young added: "Their kindness will greatly help us towards achieving our aims for the foundation."

Team-mates Sam Green and Sam Dunne are also running the Reading Half Marathon on Sunday in support of the foundation.

Wokingham Times March 13, 2013