

Junior Secretary's Report 2020/21

Unfortunately the season was yet again marred due to the stop/start nature of life in general we have now become unaccustomed to over the last 16 months or so. Losing all grassroots football throughout November 2020 and then again in January, February and part of March 2021 was far from ideal, however, the extension to the season has allowed every team to on the whole to conclude proceedings, which we have to be grateful for.

I would like to take a moment to recognise and applaud every single one of our junior members for the positive attitude they have demonstrated during this time - they have adapted so brilliantly to the challenges they have faced into - no social contact with friends, having to sacrifice huge amounts of lost face to face teacher led education and not being able to engage in sports they love, to name just a few - and let's now hope that we never see a repeat of such a period of time again.

As always I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for the often unseen work undertaken behind the scenes in the running of the club and to all of our coaching teams for the running of their own teams. You all make the club what it is and the sheer increase in player numbers we are witnessing season after season is all the proof we need to show we are collectively doing the right things, keep it up! I would also like to formally welcome Scott Cattaneo to the club committee and thank him for stepping up to fulfil the newly created role of Mental Wellness Champion for our club - more from Scott on this in due course.

I am sure everyone will have noticed that we are an unfortunate victim of our own success as increased playing numbers has resulted in a greater volume of matchday traffic, specifically with roadside parking on Low Catton Road at Reckondales. This is a real cause for concern as we not only have a responsibility to ensure general road traffic safety of all playing members and their families but also to the wider community, including other road users. Graham and I have looked at the options available and spreading out kickoff times will go a long way to alleviating these issues. Graham will communicate what we are proposing and we thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. A new pedestrian access gate will also be installed at Reckondales and ready for use imminently - thanks to the PFA for their financial assistance with this.

Throughout the season there have been so many positives to talk about, so well done to everyone, but to name just two (in the interests of keeping you engaged) congratulations to Jamie Rank and his U14's team in being crowned as Division One champions. An amazing achievement and well done! Also huge praise is directed to Sarah Dwyer for her tireless work as Girls Secretary, specifically with the creation of our new Wildcats centre which has been a phenomenal success. This has seen around 25 new-to-club girls getting involved in football for the first time, whilst creating new friends in a fun setting. This has been one of the biggest club success stories for many years and will potentially lead to the creation of U8 and U9 girls teams in the future. Thanks to Sarah for fronting this but also to Adam, Dax and Lewis for their assistance in the running of the sessions themselves.

To all players, coaches and everyone attached to the club my very best wishes for the forthcoming season.

Chris Binns, Junior Club Secretary, July 2021