



Stamford Bridge Football Club Secretary's Season Report 2023/24

I assumed the role of Secretary on 1st November, following Chris Binns stepping back at last year's AGM. Thanks to Chris for his groundwork and for filling the void ahead of the 2023/24 season, we were a little lost! I have learnt quickly the role of club secretary at a club our size requires significant time and dedication, particularly with the growing administrative burdens. While some of these tasks improve grassroots football, others are less considerate of community volunteers. A huge thank you must go to the SBFC committee of volunteers for their support throughout the season. Particularly our Senior Secretary, Jamie Rank, Girls Secretaries Holly Williams and Sophie Packman and Boys/Mixed Secretaries Vicky Staines and Laura Wiley.

This year, our committee and coaches organised a record number of fundraising events, including discos, race nights, sportsman's dinners, bag packs, a monthly draw, and the Big Weekend event culminating in our junior presentation day. Each event was well received and vital for our club's revenue. Fundraising is essential due to rising costs, requiring us to be increasingly inventive in raising money to maintain our three playing sites. Balancing fundraising and subscription fees is a delicate financial task, frequently discussed at committee meetings. I fully support the committee's proposal to increase subscription fees for the 2024/25 season. Ensuring the club's sustainability for future generations is crucial. In my opinion, fundraising should provide the extra funds needed to improve facilities or cover unexpected expenses.

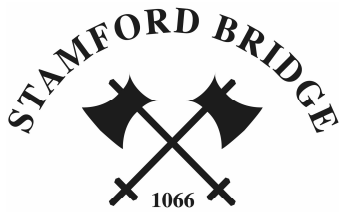
A note of thanks to Mike Willis, our Club Treasurer, for once again overseeing our accounts. Mike is always a pleasure to work with and ensures our bills are paid promptly, which is crucial for reimbursing volunteers. This season, Mike has revamped the club accounts, adopting a more professional approach by incorporating a balance sheet for the first time to aid our capital equipment expenditure.

On the football front, we had 9 mixed teams between U7's and U16's, missing only the U15's age group. Additionally, we held mixed U5's and U6's development training sessions every Saturday and had 4 girls-only teams at U10's, U12's, U14's, and U15's. Every team performed admirably, and I extend my gratitude to Vanessa, our Child Welfare Officer, and Andy Jennings for managing welfare matters and DBS checks. Resulting in us retaining our 3-Star FA Club Accreditation award. It's important to reiterate our zero-tolerance policy on poor behaviour towards players, coaches, and referees, especially as it is unfortunately an increasing trend nationally. Let us enjoy the beautiful game in the right manner.

We say goodbye to several coaches this season. Nick Darling led the U11's to a strong season, Paul Lynch and Mike Noble guided the U15's Girls with determination, and Holly Williams, Carl Thomas, and James Lacey developed the U12's Girls into a cohesive, fun and friendly team. We also bid farewell to Rhys Staines and Rob Pipe from the Girls U14's team. Thank you to all the players and coaches for your dedication.

The Senior teams, led by Oliver Newby and Lee Pallender for the 1st XI and Gordon Hields for the 2nd XI, had mixed results. Despite injuries and a young squad, both teams made progress, with many young players advancing from our Junior ranks. We appreciate Oli, Lee, and Gordon for their commitment, even as they step down from their roles.





FOOTBALL CLUB

Est. 1920

A special thank you to Graham Freer and Rhys Staines for maintaining our playing sites, ensuring we had no cancellations due to wet weather. As mentioned at the Junior Presentation Day, Martyn Stevens will step down as Chairman at the AGM, along with Chris Binns who served as Secretary prior to this season. Both have served for over a decade, playing key roles in the club's merger and the opening of Brown Moor. They will remain on the committee, and we are grateful for their dedication, marked by their receipt of the prestigious Ernie Cant Club Award for 2023/24.

In 2024/25, we welcome a new U7's team coached by Chris Ellis and Marcus Dunn. Each mixed team will move up an age level, with every coach continuing their role. Sam Browne will take over the U12's, and we will have two girls' teams at U11's and U13's, as well as three Senior teams: U19's coached by Rhys Staines, 1st XI coached by Jamie Rank, and 2nd XI coached by Danny Foxton.

Finally, thank you to the Playing Fields Association for their ongoing support. Wishing everyone a great summer. Here's to another successful season in 2024/25 – Battleaxes!

2023/24 Club Perpetual Trophy Winners

- *Nick Culkin Goalkeeper Award – Gabe Fielding*
- *Longest Serving Boy Award – Joseph White, Ewan Walton & Jackson Bryan*
- *Longest Serving Girls Award – Niamh Bryan, Katie Moody & Libby Lynch*
- *Ernie Cant Award – Martyn Stevens & Chris Binns*
- *Bill Paul Award – Louis Rank & Alfie Shenton*



Officers 2023/24: Chairman – Martyn Stevens, Club Secretary – Adam Hargreaves, Treasurer – Mike Willis

www.stamfordbridgefootballclub.co.uk