



Whiteley Wanderers Youth FC



Whiteley Wanderers AGM Agenda 2023-2024 Thursday 23rd May 2024

CHAIRMANS REPORT

As we conclude another season it's time to reflect on the past 12 months which have absolutely flown by!!!

Last summer the club celebrated its 25th anniversary – a truly memorable night with so many people associated with the club since its existence, all celebrating our wonderful history and the volunteers that over the years have built it into what it is now – a community and family club.

This year marked my 5th year as Chairman, and it wasn't without its challenges especially off the pitch. I was determined along with our excellent Committee to improve our links and communication with our coaches, volunteers, parents and players which would lead to a safer and more enjoyable football experience for all involved.

Last year we had a 4 strong Child Welfare Team, the most the club has had, and we set about making them visible to everyone connected with the club starting last summer.

We initiated coaches & managers workshops at the younger age groups to promote good practice and the club ethos, as well as having greater visibility on our social media pages, website, and WhatsApp groups. We even hosted our first parents evening which gave them the opportunity to meet the Committee face to face and discuss club matters.

Even with the above efforts, we have had some extremely challenging situations, and I personally would like to thank all of those people that supported myself and other club members to resolve them.

Being a grassroots volunteer has never been so challenging, but I hope as a club we have hit this head on and have a solid structure to improve moving ahead for allow for our players at all ages and levels.

We continue to lobby the councils for much needed facilities to help us continue to support grass roots football in our area. Last season we played 80-90% of our football on 3G and this wasn't helped by one of the wettest winters in history. We will not give up on our desires to have our own home one day, so we must continue to be heard until one day we find it. Football is for all and are committed to providing that as best we can.

On the pitch we have had lots of success across the ages for both boy's and girl's teams which continue to see exceptional growth. The men's team narrowly missed out on promotion to the Hampshire Premier League, and next season we will boast 4 x under 18 teams and an open age under 23's team to support our first team ventures. A clear pathway to adult football which has taken years to evolve.

The most rewarding part of the season for myself was to have all 12 of our EDMSL mini soccer teams with 100% Respect scores and described as Role Model Club's - an amazing achievement.

Away from football, the club held a successful and extremely heartwarming charity fun run on Good Friday which raised a staggering £2,000 for this amazing charity which has links to the club, and its players. It was a real community event that we hope to continue with next season.

I would like to state a sincere thanks to Simon Ede who is stepping down as Club Secretary. Simon started coaching with myself when we started at under 6's with our sons over 10 years ago, and since that day he's pretty much said



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yes to every role I've asked his help on. Coach, Vice Chairman, Covid Officer, and finally Club Secretary when he was supposed to leave. A gentleman and unsung hero of our club, we wish him well and thanks him for his service over the years.

Thanks for all your support, and never underestimate the positive effect you are having on these kids' lives each week. We look forwards to another season which is only round the corner!

Steven Davies

Chairman