



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - AGM 2021

## Looking back on 2020/21: Facts and Figures

### Members

Minis – Reception 23 registered

Year 1 25 registered

Year 2 24 registered

Total Minis - 72

U8's – 25 registered inc training only

U9's – 27 registered inc training only

U10's – 35 registered inc training only

U11's – 25 registered inc training only

U12's – 27 registered

U13's – 30 registered

U14's – 15 registered

U15's – 17 registered

U16's – 15 registered

U18's – 16 registered

Mens - 20 registered

Total League teams - 252

### Girls

New U10 group – 22 registered

Existing training only group 12-16 year olds – 10 registered

Total Girls - 32

Total Registered members – 356

## Teams and Competitions

This season we had Saturday Mini Soccer teams at Under 8, 9, 10 and 11 plus competitive Sunday league teams at Under 12, 13, 14, 15 & U16 all playing in the Mid Warwickshire Leagues. We also had our Under 18 in the John Bryan Coventry League on Sundays and for the 1st time in Wanderers history we entered an Adult team into the Leamington & District Sunday League Division 4.

With all of these leagues at our disposal I think we are able to provide appropriate football for all our teams, however as has been the case for many years the Mid Warks continues to deplete as you go up through the age groups, where numbers drop off significantly and also struggles with the image of being a lower standard of league compared to some of the other alternatives.



## Coaches, Officials & Development

### Mini Sessions

Mid-season we made the decision to engage with Simon Arnold (Fit4Kids) and ask him to take ownership of the Minis. Best decision we ever made and the sessions are now flawlessly delivered with great professionalism. Alongside our own volunteers, coaches and future coaches we now have a great platform to launch the next generation of WWFC players and teams.

That is not to say the previous incumbents of the Minis coaching role have not done a fantastic job but the stability now provided by Simon and his team means we are in safe hands moving forward.

I am pleased to say that Adam and Shamak have been engaged with the U7's from early on and have stepped up to jointly run a team next season, plus we have a 2nd parent who has volunteered to take on the 2nd team and is currently going through his DBS check. Potential may exist in terms of player numbers for a 3rd team.

### Goalkeeping Coaching

In addition to running the minis Simon Arnold has also continued to run our goalkeeping coaching sessions on Tuesday evenings. The feedback from all is amazing and you can see what a difference it makes both to the enjoyment of the kids and also in their performances on the pitch.

Overall I would like to say a massive thanks to Simon and his team. One of the nicest people you could ever wish to meet and the rapport that he has with the kids is unbelievable. He is a massive role model and I am delighted that he has become an integral part of WWFC – long may it continue! You are going nowhere Simon!

### Girls Group

Unfortunately the Blades team decided not to continue this season but the older girls registered with the club have continued to train on a weekly basis. As well as this Fitzzy has assembled a new team that are looking to start playing next season at U11's.

### League Teams

All our league teams are blessed with at least 1 FA qualified coach and most have at least 1 additional volunteer supporting.

### Development /Club Philosophy

Currently I would say we do not really have one. We have discussed and debated but in general we have some basic principles that exist historically and in general we rely on everyone to do their own thing with their own teams.



We have changed this in the minis this season and this is something I will come onto later in terms of the future.

As a club we are blessed with a phenomenal number of volunteers and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all. The club is what it is because of you!

We have maintained our FA Charter Status (soon to be England Football Accredited) thanks to Simon & Nat, which is the FA kite mark to acknowledge clubs that have the appropriate framework and structure in place.

This task should not be under estimated and I ask everyone to continue to support this status by ensuring all your actions are up to date re 1st aid, safeguarding, DBS, etc.

## Annual Awards Day

Obviously once again this year the event had to be cancelled which is such a shame having become such a focal point of the village calendar.

I suggest we plan a spectacular event for next year!

## Looking Forward – My Vision for Wellesbourne Wanderers FC

Having taken back the chair for a 2nd stint I wanted to put forward my thoughts for the future philosophy for the club.

The historical roots of the club have always been based on an all-inclusive philosophy to provide football for local children of all abilities with an emphasis on coaching them to improve their skills, ability and enjoyment. This is a corner stone of the clubs foundations and something that we should continue to promote as part of our core philosophy.

However due to the growth of the club in recent years and in particular the ability to now field 2 or 3 teams at each age group we have a choice to make in terms of how we create our teams at the starting age group for league football which is currently U8's.

Previously this has been left to the coaches to choose their teams based on many reasons such as school friendship groups, other relationships/connections, etc.

For the 1st time I have now changed this and next seasons U8's teams will be decided / selected based on a current assessment of ability.

From now on all new teams at U8's will be selected this way, however we will monitor the development of all players on a routine basis and move players around based on progression. This has been made clear to all coaches and players and has gained almost total support. Some issues have been raised by parents but I have explained our reasoning behind this method and how I believe (as do all the coaches involved in this age group) this will benefit all children the most.



This approach will only apply to the current U8's and all new teams in future years coming behind them. All existing age groups where we have more than 1 team can continue as they are unless the coaches, together agree to change to, for want of a better word, a streaming process.

These changes, in my opinion, will elevate the clubs offering to a level where we can really push forward to create a more desirable image for the club, whilst still remaining all-inclusive with the goal to provide football to any child who has the desire to play and at the same time matching them appropriate at a level that best enables both social and technical progression.

With the number of children we have at the club, which will only continue to grow, plus the incredible number of coaches and volunteers, I believe we need to capitalise on what have and the potential that is staring us in the face at this moment in time.

Currently we play the majority of our football in the Mid Warks League. I have previously indicated my desire to have teams in higher level leagues and this is still my desire. In fact I want to build this into the clubs philosophy so that our members are aware of our ambition. This ensures we are meeting the needs of all players across the spectrum.

Alongside promoting a higher standard of playing comes the need for a greater commitment in terms of coaching.

As much as I want to promote progression at a playing level I also want to do this at a coaching level. I would like to see more coaches qualified beyond Level 1 and I also see the potential opportunity with some of our older players to mentor them into coaching roles.

Stuart has previously put together some standard session packs for coaches and I would like to build upon this in the future where we create a more formal structure for introducing new coaches into the fold. I think this will also benefit existing coaches who are juggling busy lives and this will undoubtedly help with session planning and execution.

Based on this I would like to add a formal position(s) to the committee where we elect a Coaching Lead/Mentor who can help and guide new and existing coaches.

## Conclusion

Once again I would like to thank all players, parents, coaches, managers, committee members and volunteers for all they have done this season. If I have not mentioned you specifically in my report and should have done then I apologise!

As the incumbent Chairman and someone who remains passionate about the future direction of this club I have listed above my main goals for what I see as the future of WWFC. If you are willing to support these goals then I am willing to stand for re-election.

In addition my other main goal is still to find a permanent new home for the club and I will give a brief update on this at the meeting rather than write about it here.

Darren Dowsett  
Chairman WWFC  
22nd July 2021

