



# SECRETARY REPORT - AGM 2021

So, my second season as club secretary has come to an end and what a rollercoaster this one has been.

## COVID

Another disrupted season thanks to the C word, but I think as a club we can be incredibly proud of how we dealt with the procedures. We were often complemented by other clubs and parents on how good they were.

So big thank you to Steve, Darren and Stuart in the main who were on the COVID working group, Natalie for being the COVID officer and to all the coaches who stuck to the rules and delivered safe football with very minimal incidents occurring.

## Digital Registrations & Payments

We had another great year of embracing technology at the club and managed to get every single player signed up via our club registration system, including the upgraded photo uploader and ID check system.

The previous year resulted in a lot of chasing of photos/ID for both me and managers, and by using this system, everything is stored in one secure place, renamed so its easy to find by player name and team name and then passed into The FA system for registration.

We also started to move Minis from manual registration over to the Matchday system, which worked reasonably well, but with some parents dodging emails and skipping paying, it was difficult to keep track of who was turning up and who was or wasn't paying.

So there will be big changes this coming season for Minis especially, and making sure every single player is registered in The FA Club Portal and using the app from day 1.

Payments have been 99% made through the app, so thank you all for working with it, it does make my job easier when assigning fees to players.

We've hit the 250 milestone for player registrations already, with the addition of the new U8 teams and Minis, we'll likely hit 400 registered players for 2021/22 which is an incredible feat.

I'll be hopefully on an FA podcast next week, talking about Wellesbourne Wanderers and how we use The FA digital products to benefit the club and its volunteers, so listen out for that when it goes live!



## Defibrillators

Hopefully we can now finally get our defibrillators installed at HRI and Dovehouse. After getting nowhere with the County Council (due to requiring power for the secure cabinet at Dovehouse), we are looking at different ways we can get these up and running as soon as possible for the start of the season.

With the addition of the new shed at HRI, we'll be able to store one of them there too.

## Fundraising

Very little fundraising activity this year due to COVID, however some sponsorship funds were raised by Stuart Eustace via a crowdfunding platform, so well done to Stu for organising that to pay for some kit and equipment.

## Girls Football

The girls section is growing again, and it's great to see more and more coming through. It is part of the club's plan to grow this further, but we will need more coaches/parents willing to take the reins on more teams. In the long run, we'd want to have a dedicated Girls liaison officer as well, one that can help the day to day running of that whole section.

There will be a mix of U10/U11 girls playing in a new division within the Mid Warwickshire league, playing non competitive football. If you get a chance, get down and watch them!

We've also got a new female trainee referee in the club, who is currently doing her referee course now COVID restrictions have lifted. So make sure you use Ellie for friendlies over the summer to help her get better!

Beth, one of our older girls is also working on her Level 1 course, so it really looks promising to see such a strong female presence coming through the club at the moment.

## Mens Team

After a disrupted season, our debut in the Leamington & District Sunday football league was a positive one. Having some really competitive games, with most of our squad being 18/19 years old it was really good to see them matching up with established adult teams most weeks.

We look forward to seeing how they can progress with a full season ahead of them!

## Safeguarding & Courses

The new courses are all back up and running now, and we need to make sure that everyone is qualified to continue to meet our England Football Accreditation this season.



Going forwards, as a minimum requirement we'd like every single volunteer in the club to be taking their BT Playmaker course, to get a flavour for coaching and how to deliver and plan a session.

Obviously everyone will already have a DBS, but we'd encourage everyone to also get their Safeguarding and First Aid courses completed as well.

We need to make sure all teams have a Level 1 qualified coach with them, so any new coaches who have come on board we need to get you booked onto these courses. All fees will be refunded by the club upon completion.

## Welfare Officer & DBS Checks

Natalie Powers has really been chucked in the deep end this season, dealing with discipline issues, DBS checks, renewals and COVID related issues too.

She's done an incredible job, and worked amazingly behind the scenes to get everyone up to speed and respond to queries quickly.

Please continue to support Natalie when she requests information from you for any purpose, it'll make everyone's lives easier if you can act on it promptly.

Thank you Nat for everything!

## Kit & Sponsorship

Thank you as always to Steve for organising the kit for this season and into next season. It's a tough old job, which is much appreciated.

If you haven't already (me included) please make sure you send Steve your kit requirements for next season as soon as possible!

## Next Season

Our season will begin in the first week of September all being well, so let's keep our fingers crossed for a COVID free season ahead!

## Goodbye Dave

Just wanted to put on record a huge thank you to Dave Howells for his long service to the club as his U17 team roll onto pastures new next season. It brings to an end a great few years for Dave and his team.



So, from everyone at the club Dave, a big thank you for all your work on equipment, first aid bags, ice packs and trophies and we wish you all the very best in the future for you and your family!

## Summary

So to wrap up, despite the disruption, a season to be proud of in so many different ways. It just shows how well we can work together when things get tough.

Wish you all the best for next season and please do get in touch if you need any assistance.

Simon