



Chairman's report for Earls Barton United FC AGM of 08th June 2021

The season started with so much promise and then came the lockdowns. Although the 2nd one from Christmas to March had less of an impact match wise as the flooding of the Pioneer and rains meant very few matches would have been played in the first quarter of 2021. The season was able to conclude with a re-arranged series of matches which we thank the hard work of the leagues for. There are so many people to thank in these troubled times; The parents and guardians who have continued to support the club financially through these difficult times. The players who worked hard through lockdowns in zoom and other types of sessions and competitions. The committee members who continue to work behind the scenes renewing league affiliations, updating websites, maintaining the grounds etc. The coaches and managers who continued to find ways of communicating with their squads, adapting to whatever new requirement is thrown at them and learning new virtual training techniques all self-taught. Thank you everyone who has contributed whether mentioned above or not your input has been fantastic.

Parish Council/Hanson/Pioneer (Rolling Lease renewed)

The Parish Council continue to support with The Pioneer site in regards to paying rent, electric, water and sewage and grass cutting. They also make provision for £1000 a year towards emergency repairs to the toilets, changing room and fencing.

Last year's report had lots of mentions about extending leases, discussions with the football foundation and Hansons.

I am pleased to say that all have gone well and as you will no doubt already know that the Pioneer is undergoing improvements. The lease was agreed and signed providing the 10 years required and now finishing on 18th November 2031. (Albeit Hansons have a 1year break clause). This allowed us to apply and receive funding from the Football Foundation towards new temporary buildings and changes to existing.

With the following received; (approx. figures)

Football Foundation £88,000

EBPC £20,000 (£7,000 of which was contributed from EBUFC many years ago)

Mineral Star Construction £25,000

Earls Barton United FC £7,500

We should have 3 new cabins arriving this afternoon including 2 changing room units with showers, players toilets and official's rooms. The third unit has male, female and disabled toilets.

The existing changing rooms are being altered to 2 dry changing areas and a maintenance plant store. Thus, removing the need for the £1,300 a year storage fee.

The Grange Development

The Borough Council of Wellingborough (Now North Northants approved the planning with various conditions which are being worked through. They also have provided an £800,000 grant towards the first 3 phases of the development. This along with the DWH 106 agreement money and the EBPC grant support has allowed the Pavilion/club house to commence. The appointment of the architects and other consultants was agreed yesterday and orders are being placed this week. A design is in the final stage of adjustments. This will also provide a phased strategy to include the following;



Football pitches (with the potential of at least 1 3G, a second smaller all weather, small sided pitches. Discussions have been held with the Football Foundation and NFA and a bid needs to be put together)

A cricket pitch with 8 strips (this is in current use.)

A new Pavilion/club house.

An outside Gym

The existing pavilion converted into other uses possibly studios.

A sports hall (Phase 4 long term aspiration)

It is a fantastic vision that I have been involved in for many years and lead the development committee and it is great to see if finally start to become a reality.

The football pitches will be handed over to the EBPC and their body which runs the facility the EBS&C Trust in September.

I have been in communication with DWH on a number of issues with the pitches and their quality and they are putting a remedial package together to ensure that the pitches are in the condition we would expect them to be.

Pitch improvements

We have not invested as much as normal in the Pioneer pitches because of missing out on a new funding stream. However, there was a grant for pitch maintenance and during covid lockdown and covid start-up which we gratefully received and put in place the various covid measures and maintained the goal mouths

Under the new grant scheme, we had our pitch power report on the pitches which had lowered from good to standard. Geoff, Tony and I took our level 1 in Ground's maintenance, and because of these 2 factors we entered into a contract with the Football Foundation for a 6year maintenance strategy with a matched financial support. EBUFC have set aside £14,000 and The FF will provide £28,000 during the period broken down into a reducing scale. This provides £7,000 per year including VAT. We invested our first £2,700 last week. (A quote came in for over £10,000 for the full works so we will need to see how we can balance the use of contractors and our own volunteers.)

Thank you, Geoff, for your day to day running of the Pioneer.

Kit and equipment

Once again, I must thank the sponsors whose generosity allows the club's members to maintain their high standards of appearance. We are one of the few clubs who provide kit free to the players at youth level.

As you will have witnessed the goal areas are the best they have been at this stage of the season. This is because of the investment seen in the rolling goals. The removal of the fixed goals at the end of games and the ability to use them in different areas for training has saved the areas from unnecessary use. It has also allowed for the flexibility of use on the pitches.

One thing left to do is the removal of the old sockets.



Website

Marie has continued to update the website which we really appreciate and with the help of Kerri is providing a good level of information for prospective players. It also provides a direct feed from our Facebook page and a link to Barton Today for those who live outside the village.

Marie needs those within the club to contribute with any changes to management, teams etc and also to update the latest news articles.

Barton Today/Facebook and Twitter

Jo Booth stepped into the role of our Barton Today editor and we wish to thank her for hitting the deadlines each month. She will admit that the hardest part is getting contributions from the teams. Emma continues to do a great job on Facebook but similarly needs a constant stream of news. Not to forget Ian doing the twitter feed.

Additional football/teams

The 2020/21 season saw us enter the MJPL an idea from the previous under 16's, however, they were unable to get the number of players and at a cost of £250 we had to withdraw.

This season there is a proposed veterans' team for 21/22 but problems have materialised in securing a manager.

Girls Football and female coaches. As part of our funding bid, we promised to increase the female element of the club on the pitch. The Wildcat centres is an initiative run by the FA to increase participation. Once our new facilities are complete at the Pioneer then we will be looking to introduce both a centre and build up sides and coaching. We are looking for a lead person and small team to investigate and put this together ready for its launch.

Coaching/managers

We continue to invest in coaches for this season. Despite a distinct lack of awareness and strategy from the FA to provide adequate on-line course presence we managed to offer Coerver courses. As interim measure the Playmaker course, concussion, safeguarding and Cardiac Arrest courses were added by the FA. Recently the new online Introduction to Football has been added but courses are scarce. (Next advertised on 14th June. A new online First Aid has been launched and details are awaited, for safeguarding. Thank you to Colette for keeping people abreast of the qualifications required and DBS checking. We do need to be more proactive as individuals in booking on courses to maintain our status. However, having seen many opposition managers in action, I still believe we have some of the best grassroots managers and coaches not only with their technical knowledge but their belief in enjoyment comes before winning but competing at the highest level also brings its own enjoyment and rewards when done in the right way. Well done everyone.

Winter training

We have liaised well with our external training providers and managed to provide venues to meet our teams' needs.



The Committee

Once again, I could not ask for any more from the committee and the club has benefitted from their time and increase in numbers. However, we still suffer in key positions with many holding manager's positions as well as committee. We need willing volunteers to take on the roles or support the roles. We still need to continue to increase the committee numbers with people who can take on roles within the club and progress it further in its ambitions. The biggest issue is with me holding the 3 key roles and not only diluting what I can do but also for the health and scrutiny of the club.

The fundraising part of the committee continues to provide a boost to the club's finances and whilst we have had the task greatly restricted a thank you to Emma Bates for the Raffle, Kirk for the tree shredding and Ian for the last man standing and the Euro golden goal for much needed levels of club fundraising to support our income.

Thank you to Beverley for her hard work on managing the Covid reporting and track and Trace systems in an everchanging environment.

Community Club status

The club retained its community club status for 2021. It shows that Earls Barton United are still one of the Football Clubs at the forefront of grassroots football. However, there will be a complete overhaul of the system in the summer. We are unaware of what this entails but are ready to meet the challenge.

Wittlich

Unfortunately, the Wittlich trip was again postponed and we will see what the future holds. Both committees are focused on making the exchange possible again once the current issues allow.

Presentation

Again, the presentation was another casualty and teams are organising their own events to celebrate the teams achievements.

Men's Adult Football

The men's sides decided to enter the Heyford cup rather than continue with league organised friendlies after lockdown and this provided the first team losing in the semi-final and the reserves winning their cup. It proved a very successful format.

Ladies Football

The Ladies on their return continued where they left off with a 100% winning streak. Well done to Cliff and the team

Youth Football

Youth and mini soccer adapted to whatever was thrown at them and the Weetabix League decided on a competitive conclusion with the Under 13's losing in their final. The NDYAL extended the league to 20th June with friendlies. Earls Barton hosted a small mini soccer centre at the Grange on behalf of the Weetabix league which proved very successful and we thank you to EBSA for their assistance.



earls barton united fc

Code of Conduct infringements

On the whole we have managed it very well with a few minor exceptions. We would like to continue to remind everyone that the few can tarnish the majority and if you see anything please report it.

Tournaments

Some teams have entered tournaments but there are far fewer and mainly aimed at Primary school age groups.

Volunteers Required

We need to expand our volunteer base especially for our commitment to the pitch maintenance programme and the cleaning of the new cabins. As you can see from the reports the breakdown of roles into smaller elements has led to less work for individuals and a better service for the club users.

Once again, I wish to congratulate everybody involved in Earls Barton United football club on another successful year.

Thank you

Antony Owen (Earls Barton United F.C. Chairman)