



Chairman's report for Earls Barton United FC AGM of 14th June 2022

I wish to thank, 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 give all for their squads, adapting to whatever is thrown at them. The parents/guardians, players and Community who continue to support the club.

Thank you everyone who has contributed whether mentioned above or not your input has been fantastic.

I wish to thank those who are stepping down from their roles;

Tony Sanders as President after many years with the club.

Shad Hester who has managed this year's under 16's from their inception.

Whilst Ian is stepping away from the adults to takeover a new role else where we wish him every success and thank him for the brilliant job he has done to bring the adults to where they are now. He will remain in other roles within the club.

Earls Barton Parish Council and the Pioneer

The Parish Council continue to support The Pioneer site in regards to paying rent, electric, water and sewage and grass cutting. The removal of Norse by NNC and their in-house grass cutting team unable to meet the sports pitch requirements has caused a lot of work and expense for EBUFC.

The new facilities are up and running and with the support of Mineral Star Construction our main sponsor we continue to improve the facilities and pitches where budget and time allow.

We are in the 2nd year of our agreement with the Football Foundation on creating good standard pitches. Unfortunately, the over running of the NDYAL league has meant we haven't been able to do all the work planned as it has hit a dry spell. We therefore wait for the opportunity to re-seed the pitches and work the goalmouths. Irrigation is the biggest issue.

The Grange Development

In January we were able to start using the Grange football pitches for the under 16,18 and Adults as well as the mini soccer sides.

There have been lots of frustrations regarding the further development of the facilities but finally at the start of June we have the majority of the delay issues resolved and are looking to go with a revised scheme into planning in July. The target is for a football foundation grant application to be in on 23rd September for their October panel meeting.

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. This has however been a really slow process.

Personally, the reliance of Earls Barton Parish Council and EBS&CT on myself to push the project and pick up all the dropped balls by them and their consultants has been very time consuming, frustrating and draining. There is no sign of this letting up.

The introduction of the new FA Ready for investment programme also has a lot of work, in fact filling in an 88 page document and the meeting of their consultants as part of the bid process is quite a feat still to complete.



Pitch improvements

We have struggled to maintain the pitches with a drop off in volunteer hours due to health and availability reasons. This needs to be re-addressed. We thank Mineral Star for stepping in where the shortfalls have occurred. From, early May through to start of August we set up a difference in cutting length this is to protect the soil around the grass from the heat and thus cracking and hardening. The retention in moisture is key. Therefore, it is not cut to a match length. Match 25mm-32mm Protection 32-38mm. Note cut not after a week's growth.

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 continue to be the best they have been at this stage of the season (Although the 9v9 has worn most and a lot is due to it being trained in prior to matches). This is because of the investment seen in the rolling goals (We will need to continue that investment and remove the one fixed goal at the start of holiday periods). 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 still the removal of the old sockets.

The club training strip is continuing to be rolled out throughout the youth set up.

The under 6's have now a full training kit and Jackets.

Finally, we have been working on a subliminally printed match kit to further reduce the costs. The sample is ordered and hopefully will be with us in the next week. A decision will then be made. This allows for a multitude of sponsors at the same cost. It also means there is not an end of production date to watch out for.

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. We will be adding a QR code direct to the Website.

It would be even better to have an App. However, this maybe a step to far with our existing volunteers' technical knowledge.

Barton Today/Facebook and Twitter

Jo Booth continued 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.



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 100 club, 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 she is now moving on to help with registrations and match reporting.

Community Club status

As the FA changed their charter standard award to England Accredited, the club was awarded level 2

Wittlich

Unfortunately, the Wittlich trip was again postponed so both clubs families could concentrate on seeing their own families and share the time as families after a couple of years of disrupted travel and protection from the virus. Both committees are focused on making the exchange possible again once the current issues allow.

Presentation

Again, the presentation was another casualty and teams organised their own events to celebrate the squads' achievements. However, we are pleased to have already held the under 16, 18 and adult men presentations with the under 11-15 this weekend and u6 to u10 the following weekend. Over £6,000 will have been invested.

Volunteers Required

The workload is ever increasing as the ambitions and development of the club continue to make this club one of the best in the county. However, we cannot keep the momentum without more volunteers.

We need to expand our volunteer base especially for our commitment to 2 grounds, 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)