



## Welcome to the 2024-25 Season

Firstly a big Welcome to the '24-25 Season, I know that some of you got your seasons underway last weekend, others will start this week, so good to have everyone back & playing football. Some things never change, Tuesday evening continues to be the wettest part of the week, I think that I may have just about dried out after two hours @ Van Dyke.

### Committee Update and Close Season Progress

The close season was EXTREMELY busy for the committee, and some really positive progress has been made on recruiting new people to support the club. We started the AGM with a committee of 6 people, but were able to add people in a number of support roles (Asst Treasurer, new Child Welfare Officer to support Caroline, Purchasing, Fixtures Secretary and Funding to name a few), The onboarding of these roles continues, but I wanted to share because growing the committee from 6 to around 15 is a really positive development, and critical for the future. If you are interested in any roles, please let me know,

One of the roles is a new Social Media officer to work with Neil in enhancing our on line profile. Leah is completing A-Levels at Van Dyke, and is supporting us as part of her extra curricular development. Please welcome Leah if you see her at training or matches, and she is aware and will fully respect all wishes with respect to photographic permissions too. I will share more detail on the composition of the rest of the committee in our next update, and if you have any immediate questions, please contact myself, Neil or Mark.

One of the events we did attend in June was a "Volunteers Fair" in All Saints Leighton Buzzard and we got a number of leads for the committee, but also made some good contacts with the local council , As a result have secured £1000 Grant and £500 matched funding for the club. This has enabled us to buy a new set of Full Size goals for our U15 and U16 Girls Teams as we now have 4 teams on full size pitches, as well as a further 5 teams hosted on the other two pitches at Tilsworth. With the continued growth of the club, we are now partnering with Beaudesert School on Saturday mornings, and our U7 and U8 teams will play out of there for their 1<sup>st</sup> two seasons, with the Debut game scheduled for our U7's this weekend.

### Early Season Updates

Equipment & Kit has been a challenge over the summer, impacted by a fire at one of our major suppliers meaning that they stopped taking orders just as we needed to place our order. We also then had a late flurry of new players since the end of August , which has been a great benefit to some of our teams with lower numbers, but does create difficulty when ordering kit. We are now almost on top of this, helped by amazing work (and late hours) from our Club Secretary and treasurer to get everyone registered and paid, and I thank everyone for their patience as we close this out.

For new members we had around 30 new players across existing teams, and an especially warm Welcome to Steve Brooks and his new U7 Team. It's a great pleasure to welcome new teams into the club each year, and also important for the long term health of the club, and so it's been great to have Steve join us with great enthusiasm and energy. He has also been successful in getting sponsorship for his Team Kit, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> sponsor for an additional training jacket which is being organised. Whilst other kits are all sponsored, if you know anyone who may be interested in supporting the club with Sponsorship please let me know and I can share details of sponsorship opportunities available. On funds, THANKS for the 50% of club that have paid subs in full, for others September payments are due next week.

Finally a couple of pointers for the next few months.. We are looking to organise our first club social of the year , which will hopefully be a chance for players to socialise off the pitch, and also for parents to get to know each other away from the sidelines, more details to follow. Further we will also then look to schedule a Christmas Party which is always great for the younger side of the club, and then we will also be supporting the Local Rotary Club on the Traditional Santa Walk Then as we enter 2025 which will be our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary look out for special anniversary events too,

**Hope this update has been useful, Thanks to EVERYONE for the continued support for the club, and Hope that everyone enjoys the football in the weeks to come.**

*Steve*

**"Promoting fun, friendly,  
family football within  
the local community"**