



Flitwick Eagles Football Club

Founded 1986

Registered Charity : 1109671



TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MAY 2024

2023-24 SEASON

www.flitwickeagles.org

FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

CONTENTS

	Page
General Information	1
Trustees Report	2 – 7
Independent Examiner’s Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11 - 14

FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trustees

Geoff Springall (Chairman)

Lynda Gazeley

Melvyn Gazeley (Secretary)

Peter Hagan

Ian Mulligan (Treasurer)

Colin Giggle

Ian Noble (Vice Chairman)

Paul Jenkins

Ian Dunne (appointed 14 June 2023)

Independent Examiner

Mr P Fenn
Mercer & Hole LLP
The Pinnacle
170 Midsummer Boulevard
Milton Keynes
MK9 1BP

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
111 High Street
Bedford
MK40 1NJ

Registered Charity Number

1109671

Principal Address

Flitwick Football Centre
Amphill Road
Flitwick
Bedfordshire
MK45 1BA

Trustees' Report 2023-2024

The Trustees present their Annual Report with the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 May 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Trust's Deed and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Objectives of the Charity

The charity was established by a constitution adopted on 10 April 2005 and was registered on 25 May 2005.

The objectives of the Charity are to advance the educational and physical development of boys and girls living in Flitwick and the surrounding area, regardless of race, ability or social background by the provision of sports facilities and opportunities to participate in sport and in particular football.

The trustees meet four times a year and review our charitable purpose, to ensure that the club offers both the facilities and the opportunities to all children in the local community. This is demonstrated not only by the teams that represent the club on a Saturday and Sunday but also the diversity of sessions we are able to offer across the board, from those first starting out in our Eaglets and Fledglings sessions to our adult Ladies side and our wider community activities, including vets and walking football.

Review of the development, activities and achievements of the charity

Club Development

This was our ninth season in the football centre. A facility all at Flitwick Eagles are proud to call our home, the centre has become increasingly important to the local community.

The club continues to grow with over 50 teams and 700 playing members competing in the season with great representation throughout local leagues on both Saturdays and Sundays in youth levels and in Ladies senior football.

With the club now in its 38th year it is clear to see the growth from the first few teams calling Hinksley Road their home ground to what we have at our disposal now. The football centre has provided a base where teams, volunteers and parents can interact and has the potential to be a great social setting for the local community. We now have over 50 teams and well over 100 volunteers, the lifeblood of any grassroots sports club, from the trustees that oversee the good governance of the club to those running teams. Compliance of all volunteers with the FAs requirements is a great testament to our people but even greater testament to Lynda Gazeley who works extremely hard to maintain this high standard within the club.

The trustees continue to review the club policies and where necessary develop new club policies to ensure that we continue to cater for the local community whilst providing a safe and friendly environment for all.

Facilities and equipment

The Flitwick Football Centre continues to set the standards in the local footballing community, the biggest and best and all run by volunteers - incredible! The 2023/24 season included a major milestone as we obtained agreement for the construction of our own AGP facility, meaning that much of the clubs training requirement as well as game play can be catered for “in house”. The investment Flitwick Eagles made, alongside partners including Central Beds Council, the Football Foundation and Flitwick Town has meant that the money the club paid for external facilities, now has a circular effect with some being re-invested into our own facilities and not elsewhere. The AGP has proven to be a fantastic facility, one that once again set us apart from the rest and who owe huge thanks to Cliff Simmonds who led the project and committed a huge amount of time to ensure it went smoothly.

The grass pitches remain a real example of where good and dedicated volunteers can strive to provide excellence. It really is wonderful to see our pitches in use each weekend with proud players and their families representing our club and we are indebted to Colin Giggie and Melvyn Gazeley for their unmatched hard work maintaining our wonderful home. This is the second year of having our own tractor, meaning that even more of the maintenance work has been undertaken in house.

The pitches are rested from May to September to allow for maintenance and for new grass to grow, unlike previous years the summer was particularly wet and therefore provided ideal conditions for the grass to grow. In this respect we have been lucky but we must learn from previous dry summers where the playing surface suffered. We must re-focus on the need for an irrigation system, previous research has enabled us to understand what would be available to us and the associated costs and this must remain a high priority.

Whilst we had a great number of our teams training at the football centre, we still had to supplement it with training on the 3G at Redborne School. The surface for this had been poorly maintained but in the summer of 2024 was replaced and is now of a similar standard to that of the club. We have ceased the use of the 3G at the Leisure Centre. The use of both facilities has enabled greater flexibility in delivering effective training sessions. We must cater for all age groups, with suitable training slots and times, some teams having to be flexible with their expectations. Our own AGP provides us opportunity to think innovatively and provide even more opportunity to play football to a wider audience in the community. With a Ladies only 16+ Friday night session just the start.

We have remained with our local equipment provider in Prestige Sportswear, who provide us with everything from cones and balls to our traditional Royal Blue and White striped kits. On the whole supply has been good, but for a club of our size, with the demand for equipment that we have we must always make sure our needs are being met.

Growth and Retention

Our membership levels continue to increase. With over 50 teams, we have over 700 playing members in the club. We also have many satellite activities supporting the wider community outside of the structured weekend leagues with Eaglets, Fledglings, Frame, Ladies, Veterans and Walking football.

This was the sixth season that the Eaglets sessions were held on a Sunday morning at the Flitwick football centre. These sessions have been very well attended with up to 50 children regularly attending and allowing the 3–6-year olds the opportunity to experience the club at the weekends, something that we hope embeds them into the club for years to come. In addition, we've re-established our Fledglings session for girls under the age of 9 with a consistent number of players participating each week.

Raising Standards and Addressing Abusive Behaviour

We continue to encourage good behaviour both on and off the pitch. We continue to ensure our coaches and managers hold the necessary qualifications, and despite the growth of participation within the club these high standards have been maintained.

The introduction of ID cards a number of seasons ago for all coaches and managers displaying names and FAN numbers is an added safeguard in place at the club, one that sets a standard within the county. The FAs codes of conduct for coaches, players and parents are embedded within the club and we will not tolerate non-compliance. The club supports initiatives such as, silent support weekends and were the first to introduce mandatory matchday delegates for each match, an initiative now implemented by some of our local leagues. Once more showing the clubs influence, maintaining high standards and developing further good practice.

Running the Game Effectively

It was the clubs second year of using the online payment management system, Spond to register and collect monthly fees. This replaced a more traditional paper system that relied on a couple of intensive signing on weekends and the setting up of standing orders. Spond notifies our members at the start of each month that a payment is required, meaning that payments can't be forgotten. In addition, Spond can also be used by teams to organise fixtures, training and other events and has proven very intuitive.

Ian Mulligan's leadership of the financial management of the club continues to be first class. With a significant turnover, his management of the collection of fees and the control of expenditure has continued to provide a solid foundation for the club. Under Ian's stewardship the club has demonstrated its ability to manage finances effectively – an important attribute for any prospective funding body.

Our finances are structured in such a way that we have sufficient capital reserves to maintain the charity through unforeseen events. There is no clearer demonstration of the strong footing the club is on than the investment of £35,000 towards a new AGP facility at the football centre and our commitment to invest in an irrigation system. Whilst we have made small changes to our subscriptions, the increases to our members have been minimal.

This would seem an appropriate place to also acknowledge and appreciate the great work undertaken over some 15 years by Mr Ian Mulligan, club treasurer. Ian has been a fantastic servant to the club and at the end of this season stepped down from his role, however, will remain a trustee of the club as well as fulfilling a similar role with Flitwick Together and Flitwick Sports CIC. Ian has been

instrumental in the development of the club over the years, including the move to the football centre and various other projects along the way. Thank you Ian.

Development of human resources

We continued to develop new coaches through the FA Level 1 coaches course, providing learners with an introduction to coaching in the game, including Safeguarding and basic first aid requirements. All within the club maintain their qualifications. We are also able to support those coaches who have the desire for further development, which can potentially be financially supported by the club.

A number of our playing members have also shown an interest in refereeing, and this has helped to supplement the growing need for officials at the weekend, with many leagues struggling to find sufficient resource. This has proven invaluable as the demand for referees has grown and the number of willing young officials has sadly declined.

We have a volunteer's pool of approximately 100 Coaches and Managers who help out on a regular basis and a large number of parents / carers with a willingness to support. It is important that we encourage this number as the services we provide continue to grow and the demands and expectations of our paying members increase.

Marketing and Public Relations

We make use of the WhatsApp messaging service to convey important information through the team managers, we have also relied on managers to convey important messages about events etc. within their teams. Spond should be a way for the club to communicate directly with our members going forward. The club has a higher presence now on social media, with Facebook and Twitter regularly updated with club news. The club website is now in the care of someone who is able to update on an annual basis but also able to update on an ad-hoc basis as and when required. To be truly up to date there is a reliance on team coaches to provide information, including team photos and there is still much room for improvement with regard to this.

Football in the Community

Eaglets (introductory sessions for 3-6 year olds) continue to be popular sessions with numbers remaining high year on year. This was the third season of the club's Fledglings sessions, a girls only session catering for under 9 year olds. Both of these sessions are held at the football centre on Sunday mornings and are a great opportunity for parents to socialise and for the children to experience the club on a "matchday". The sessions are very well attended and longer term we may benefit from additional sessions being facilitated. These sessions are also a great opportunity for aspiring young coaches, current and former players from the club to get involved, an additional opportunity for those associated with the club to gain invaluable experience, not just coaching football but all of the other skills that brings with it.

In addition, walking football and veterans' football are very well attended with regular sessions being held. The veterans' sessions are enjoyed by many of our volunteers. We've had a super first year with a Friday night, ladies only session being held, opening up the club to all ages (16+) and all abilities, this session continues to grow in popularity.

Social Activities

FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

Off field and outside of match days it is acknowledged that we need to develop the social side of the club. Much of this shortfall can be attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of social distancing. However, we have a great facility that could be used in so many ways and a captive audience for whom we could offer more. We must also look to re-invigorate our social committee to ensure social events are organised and well attended.

Tournament

We hosted our annual boys pre-season tournament at the football centre for the eighth time. This again proved to be very successful, generating a solid profit for the club. We returned to the format employed prior to Covid, with over 150 teams in attendance over the weekend, all attending enjoyed the event with lots of positive feedback being received, however, as always a few instances of poor behaviour were also experienced. The tournament was a solid fundraising event for the club and the football centre, the preparation for the weekend has become increasingly labour intensive and it's important that we get more volunteers embedded into the preparation going forward. It was our sixth year of using the Eventbrite system to enable teams to book their places on to the tournament. This was managed very well, as always by Peter Hagan.

We were pleased to re-introduce the girls only end of season tournament in May, following its cancellation the year before due to the work on the AGP. It was incredibly important that this happened and we are very pleased that it returned as successful as ever, this is a key feature of the club calendar and extremely important in the development of the girls side of our club, and the subsequent growth into our senior Ladies side.

Presentations

The end of season presentations were held at the football centre at the end of season. These once again proved to be great social events and the club were pleased to return to a format that the playing members and their families could enjoy.

Public benefit

The Trustees consider that the main activities of the Charity detailed in the objects above are for the public benefit and have given due regard to the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit.

Trustees

The trustees continue to ensure the club is operating on a sound base. The group met four times through the year and the Trustees who served during the period were:

Geoff Springall (Chairman)	Lynda Gazeley (Welfare Officer)
Melvyn Gazeley (Secretary)	Peter Hagan
Ian Mulligan (Treasurer)	Colin Giggle
Ian Noble (Vice Chairman)	Paul Jenkins
Ian Dunne (appointed 14 June 2023)	

Risk assessment

In accordance with the guidelines in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) the trustees have considered the major risks affecting the charity and have taken steps to mitigate these as far as possible.

New trustee appointments and training

New trustees receive information on the charity in respect of its mission, charitable objectives, charitable activities and structure. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events that will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

The trustees have regard to the need for any specialist skills which individuals bring to the charity.

Reserves policy

The trustees regard it as important to retain an adequate level of reserves to meet operating costs over the summer period relating to the provision of training facilities and the annual maintenance programme for the football pitches. The Trustees have currently set a minimum level for general reserves of £20,000. This will be reviewed again during the 2025 year to ensure that the level is sufficient to meet any additional maintenance required from increased usage and inflationary cost increases for materials and services purchased.

Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and so the financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis.

Summary

On behalf of the trustees, I would again like to thank everyone has volunteered and contributed to making Flitwick Eagles a club to be proud of.

G Springall

Geoff Springall
Chairman

6th January 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Flitwick Eagles Football Club (the Charity) for the year ended 31 May 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:-

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than in respect of any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and in my opinion have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

P Fenn

Philip Fenn ACA FCCA
Mercer & Hole LLP
The Pinnacle
170 Midsummer Boulevard
Milton Keynes, MK9 1BP

7th January 2025

FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
<u>Income</u>			
Income from:			
Memberships & donations		37,050	34,240
Charitable Activities	2	127,722	93,731
Investment income	3	854	409
Other		2	-
Total Income		165,628	128,380
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	4	9,526	7,786
Charitable activities and other expenses	5	150,063	140,909
Total Expenditure		159,589	148,695
Total funds brought forward at 1 June		72,453	92,768
Net income/(expenditure)		6,039	(20,315)
Total funds carried forward at 31 May		78,492	72,453

The notes on pages 11 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2024

	Notes	31 May 2024 £	31 May 2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	6	-	18,729
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>118,939</u>	<u>56,010</u>
Total Current Assets		118,939	74,739
Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)	7	(40,447)	(2,286)
Net Current Assets		<u>78,492</u>	<u>72,453</u>
Total Net Assets		<u><u>78,492</u></u>	<u><u>72,453</u></u>
Accumulated Funds			
Unrestricted general funds	9	38,492	32,453
Unrestricted designated funds	9	40,000	40,000
Restricted funds		-	-
Total Funds of the Charity		<u><u>78,492</u></u>	<u><u>72,453</u></u>

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 6th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

I Mulligan

.....
I Mulligan ACMA
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

Flitwick Eagles Football Club meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 Section 1A, from including a cash flow statement in the financial statements on the grounds that the organisation is small.

1.1 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise accumulated surpluses and deficits on general funds. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees of the charity in furtherance of the general charitable objectives. Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the Trustees have designated or allocated for identifiable future expenditure. Restricted funds are amounts for specific purposes as defined by the donor.

1.2 Income

Incoming resources represents donations, subscriptions, subsidies, sponsorship, grant funding and other income. Income is only recognised once it has been received and voluntary donations are recognised on receipt where the donation relates to the current accounting period.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure incurred on activities falling directly within one cost category have been recognised as such. Items of expenditure which involve more than one category have been allocated on a reasonable and consistent basis.

1.4 Capital expenditure

Items under £100 are not capitalised. Items over this level are assessed individually before a decision is made regarding whether they should be capitalised. Donated assets are recognised at their monetary value, as estimated by the trustees, when received and are capitalised at this value. In certain cases, where title to an asset is restricted so that it has either no or little net value to the charity, the trustees' policy is that the item should not be capitalised in the accounts.

1.5 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Cont'd

1.6 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts.

1.7 Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.8 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. In making this assessment, the Trustees have reviewed the income and cash flow forecasts of the Charity and concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

2. Income from Charitable Activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Football training	98,780	72,082
Football tournaments	19,321	11,291
Community activities	9,621	10,358
	<u>127,722</u>	<u>93,731</u>

3. Investment income

Investment income comprises bank interest totalling £854 (2023: £409)

4. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Tournament costs	5,058	3,340
Prizes and social events	3,690	3,583
Stationery & adverts	778	863
	<u>9,526</u>	<u>7,786</u>

FLITWICK EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB**YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Cont'd****5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Training and playing facilities	60,434	56,630
Equipment	26,681	26,875
Affiliation and League fees	5,599	5,254
Match officials	11,414	11,177
Tournament fees	103	252
Coaching	1,010	1,617
Trophies and prizes	4,682	9,877
Pitch maintenance & improvements	36,000	28,000
Repairs and maintenance	80	454
IT system charges	4,038	-
Administration costs	22	773
Independent examiners fee	-	-
	<u>150,063</u>	<u>140,909</u>

During the prior year a £20,000 contribution was made towards the costs of the installation of all-weather playing facilities, funds which had been designated by the Trustees for the maintenance and improvement of playing surfaces.

6. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Inland Revenue Gift Aid	-	16,079
Subscriptions	-	2,650
	<u>-</u>	<u>18,729</u>

7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors	36,000	-
Accruals and deferred income	4,447	2,286
	<u>40,447</u>	<u>2,286</u>

Accruals relate to operating costs incurred for which purchase invoices were not issued at the year-end date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Cont'd

8. Related Parties

Flitwick Eagles Football Club is a member of Flitwick Together, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registration number 1157451 that holds the lease to the Flitwick Football Centre. Flitwick Eagles Football Club has the right to appoint Member Trustees to Flitwick Together CIO and Lynda Gazeley and Ian Mulligan are currently Trustees of both Flitwick Eagles Football Club and Flitwick Together CIO.

A donation of £nil (2023: £8,000) was made by the charity during the year to Flitwick Together CIO to assist with the purchase of pitch maintenance equipment. No amounts were owed to, or due from Flitwick Together CIO at the year-end (2023: £nil).

The Flitwick Sports Community Interest Company Limited operates the Flitwick Football Centre on behalf of Flitwick Together CIO. Melvyn Gazeley is currently a Trustee of Flitwick Eagles Football Club and a director of The Flitwick Sports Community Interest Company Limited.

Flitwick Eagles Football Club paid rent for the hire of facilities during the year of £50,000 (2023: £24,000) from The Flitwick Sports Community Interest Company Limited on an arm's length basis. No amounts were owed to, or due from The Flitwick Sports Community Interest Company Limited at the year-end (2023: £nil).

9. Funds

All assets and liabilities are held as unrestricted funds, although £40,000 of the unrestricted funds have been designated by the trustees in respect of the maintenance and improvement of the training and playing facilities, which are soon expected to need substantial expenditure in view of the high levels of usage.

There are no restricted funds.

10. Reserves policy

The charity has a policy of holding an adequate level of general reserves to meet operating costs over the summer 'pre-season' period and have therefore set a minimum level for unrestricted general funds of £20,000. This will be reviewed annually to ensure that the level is sufficient to ensure the long-term stability of the charity.

11. Remuneration to Trustees for services

None of the Trustees received any remuneration or reimbursement for expenses in respect of their services as a Trustee during the year.

12. Control

The Charity is controlled by the trustees.