

THORNES JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

Trustees Report 2023-24

Once again, the club was pleased to report further increases in playing numbers compared to the 2022/23 season by approx. 70 or £11000 in cash terms. As reported in the return for 2022-23 the club increased its members subscription level to £160 per person. The club decided to maintain subscriptions at this level as we entered the 2023-24 season as we felt it unreasonable to increase charges any further as the cost of living continues to affect our members' families.

In last year's annual report, the club highlighted its efforts to develop girls' teams, and this was recognised further during 2023-24 where we were able to report three new girls' teams (45 new players in total). Our newly established under 14 girls' team had a very successful first season finishing second in their league and so gaining promotion to a higher division for the 2023-24 season. Additionally, our Ability Counts Team continues to play an important part in our club, we had the honour of hosting an Ability Counts Gala in June 2024.

Unfortunately, as reported in almost every annual report the weather over the autumn / winter period was very poor and continued to have a significant negative impact on the fitness of our pitches and a high number of games were lost to the weather from as early as late October 2023. To address this major problem, our annual report last year highlighted our efforts to secure funding from the Football Foundation to enable us to instal an effective drainage system into almost half of our pitches.

We started this process during this last season by employing a Professional Agronomist who carried out a detailed investigation into the soil conditions and an initial assessment of the type of system we would need. This survey took place at the cost of £4422 as reported on the balance sheet funded by the club. The next stage is to identify the exact specification of system required, this will cost an additional £6000 which has to be funded by the club initially but hopefully be reclaimed from the Football Foundation pending a successful grant application.

From a fundraising perspective the club was once again able to hold our annual small-sided football tournament in June 2024. The event was very successful both on and off the pitch where a financial surplus of £4400 was reported as reported in our accounts. Additionally, our Christmas raffle supported club funds to the extent of £1400. On the negative side again through continued poor weather, we were only able to one car boot sale during the season where previously we were able to have four annually. Additionally, through the significant number of games postponed again through the weather our tuck shop income reduced by £1800 compared to 2022-23.

On the expenditure side we faced a number of significant cost pressures. One of these increases related to winter training where the club uses mainly local school facilities for training during the autumn winter period. Through a combination of an increase in the number of our teams, increases in facility costs (hourly rates) and poor weather in spring 2024 leading to us having to extend the period of the facility uses, the costs increased by just over £7000. Some of this increase was expected where such as the additional three new girls' teams.

The enclosed balance sheet shows an in-year deficit of £5812 which can be attributed primarily to the "one off" cost of the drainage survey as described above (£4412), increases in costs (winter training) offset by additional income (subscriptions). The club continues, however, to have robust finances and our financial reserves more than cover the reported in year deficit. At the annual general meeting held in July 2024, the club voted to increase its membership subscriptions by a further £10 to £170 per year for the 2024-25 season. Whilst we regret having to raise our levels of subscriptions, we remain very competitive compared to other clubs in our area and an early assessment of membership levels going into the 2024/25 season shows they are increasing even further above 2023/24 levels.

THORNES JUNIORS FOOTBALL CLUB

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 30 JUNE 2024

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD - ALL ACCOUNTS

	2022/23	2023/24		2022/23	2023/24
INCOME	£	£	EXPENDITURE	£	£
Subscriptions	35966.50	47200.00	Insurances	914.13	1045.19
Raffles	1609.00	542.00	League Fees	1298.00	2085.75
Sponsorship	5066.00	14377.46	Referees	2099.00	3183.00
Miscellaneous			Miscellaneous	667.26	1610.18
Presentation Day	846.66	668.47	Presentation Day	2380.07	3150.99
Refreshments	9392.75	7556.00	Refreshments	3852.76	3515.82
Fundraising Events			Drainage Project	683.00	4422.00
Fine Refunds	112.00	87.00	Fines	346.00	457.00
Xmas Raffle	1380.00	1655.00	Xmas Raffle	242.00	265.29
Facility Hire	3175.00	2650.00	Winter Training	12803.05	20527.20
Merchandise	400.00	1174.00	Kit & Equipment	13469.51	23751.90
Gala 2023	6690.65		Gala 2023	2365.32	
Gala 2024		7338.58	Gala 2024		2885.22
Bank Interest	44.10	75.23	Queens Drive / Clubhouse	6397.86	4791.15
Car Boot Sales	3536.08	870.00	Gala Entry Fees		686.00
Football Foundation Grants (pitches and posts)		6924.00	Pitch Maintenance	15900.00	21400.00
Kickers Kit Sales	35.00	0.00	Kickers Kit		
Under 9s Kit Sales	396.7		Raffle Prizes	100.00	80.00
			Pitch Hire		824.00
			Training Courses	1610.00	2250.00
Barclays Grant U13 Girls	500		Barclays Grant U13 Girls	390.67	
TOTAL INCOME	69150.44	91117.74	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	65518.63	96930.69
BALANCE BFWD 1 JULY 2023	32213.28	35845.09			
SUB TOTAL	101363.72	126962.83			
LESS EXPENDITURE THIS PERIOD	65518.63	96930.69			
BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2024	35845.09	30032.14	BALANCE MADE UP OF AS FOLLOWS:		
			BANK ACCOUNT - MAIN	25811.95	23009.07
			BANK ACCOUNT - OTHERS	34.94	49.94
			PETTY CASH FLOAT	198.00	381.70
			RESERVE ACCOUNT	12800.20	10741.43
			YEAR END ADJUSTMENTS		
			Sponsorship - Income In Advance	-3000	-4150.00
			TOTAL BALANCES	35845.09	30032.14
			SURPLUS / DEFICIT IN YEAR	3631.81	-5812.95