

Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club

Charity Number 1188351

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period
1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024**

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation Model) on 4th March 2020. The Constitution was formally adopted on 15th January 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees of the organisation are normally connected to the club as either a current or ex-player, a coach, or as parent of a player (or ex-player), providing the organisation with various knowledge and skills relating to running the organisation.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name

Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club

Registered charity number

1188351

Charity's principal address

43 Bromham Road
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK40 2AA

Trustees

Zara Carroll
Elizabeth Clarke
Rebecca Fhalora
Kathryn Martin-Harris
Martin Trinder
Jill Upton (Chair)
Timothy West
Jennifer Yildiz

Independent Examiner

Angela Futter
St Johns
107 Highfields Road
Highfields Caldecote
Cambridge
CB23 7NX

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

The objects of the charity are; (a) to advance the amateur sport of association football, in particular but not exclusively for women and girls, in the Bedfordshire area and its surrounding areas; (b) to promote community participation in healthy recreation by the provision of facilities for the playing of association football (facilities means land, buildings, equipment and organising football activities); (c) to provide and assist in providing facilities for sport, recreation and other leisure time occupation of people who have need of such facilities because of youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Summary of main activities

Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club offers opportunities for girls and ladies to play association football at an amateur level. The club offers Walking Football, and runs after-school sessions to allow more girls to try football and encourage them to consider playing. Youth teams play in the FA Bedfordshire Girls League. Ladies teams play in the Eastern Region Womens Football League, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Womens Football League and The Alan Boswell Group Cambridgeshire Womens and Girls Football League.

Public Benefit

In carrying out the activities, which are explained in more detail on the following pages of this annual report, the organisation provided public benefit by providing opportunities for a wide section of the public to participate in an amateur sport.

The public benefit from having more individuals that are participating in community-based activities, and are physically and mentally healthier.

Women and girls (often underrepresented in team sports) are more likely to participate in amateur sport and receive the health and social benefits of participating in a team activity.

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance in setting the charity's objectives and planning its aims, objectives and future activities and when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance

This fourth year of operation for the charity has seen continued increase in girls and women's interest in football following the success of the national team, as well as general interest in the club. We have seen an increase in the numbers of teams we have within the club, both with girls training and playing competitively, during the 2023-2024 season.

Whilst the charity was established in 2020, the club has effectively been running for over 25 years. The club was originally founded in 1996 as part of the boys club West End FC, but it soon became apparent that the objectives of boys' and girls' football was very different and so a separate club was born.

The club is an FA Charter Standard Development Club and is fully affiliated with the Bedfordshire FA.

The 2023-24 season saw the club grow to include 18 youth teams, 3 adult teams, and a walking football team, all providing opportunities for over 250 girls and women to play amateur football.

The success of the WSL and the England Woman's Football Team has generated significant interest from girls of all ages to participate in the sport, with many of the club's teams at full capacity.

The club continues to train twice a week. During the lighter, summer months all teams train at Allen Park, providing a friendly atmosphere for all the players, and developing that sense of being part of a bigger club. During the winter months, training moves to various outdoor venues across Bedford, at a significant cost to the club.

The club has been developing a long-term relationship with Bedford Academy, supporting the school in their bid to the FA to install a 3G pitch which is hoped will provide a permanent winter training venue from September 2024 onwards.

The club has also further developed its relationship with Real Bedford FC during the year. The Charity has adopted the name Real Bedford Ladies and Girls FC as an operating name, and the club colours and logo have been aligned with Real Bedford FC. New home kit and training kit was provided by Real Bedford FC, and it is hoped that similar support will continue in future years.

The Ladies first team was jointly managed this year with Real Bedford FC, which also provided the necessary home venue to allow the team to push to play at a higher level in the football pyramid. The team won promotion to tier 4 in May 2024, and as the team transitions from an 'amateur' to a 'semi-professional' team, from the 2024-25 season onwards, the team will be managed by Real Bedford FC.

Contribution made by volunteers

The club could not operate without volunteers. From the 30 coaches turning up three times a week to organise training and matches, to the numerous parents helping to put the nets up, run the line, and serve refreshments, the club is indebted to volunteers to make everything happen.

A number of volunteers also undertake a range of administrative duties behind the scenes, acting as trustees, welfare officers and other roles that are all vital in running the club.

Many of the coaches are previous or current players, who recognise the importance of football in their own lives, and choose to volunteer to coach youth teams. 50% of the coaches are women, providing role models for the youth players.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

The club is in a relatively good financial position.

A combination of fees and grants make up the majority of the charity's income. A small amount of income is generated by entry fees at Ladies games, and through the refreshments on matchdays, which goes towards the cost of match officials and pitch hire. A small amount of local business support has also helped to pay for new kit for some teams.

The club seeks to keep the fees as low as possible to keep football as accessible to as many people as possible. However, the club was not immune to cost of living increases during 2023 and 2024. Reserves had to be used in the last financial year, so the trustees felt that it was prudent to increase fees and tuck shop prices.

Reserves

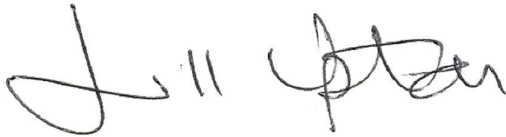
The Charity currently holds £10,362 of unrestricted reserves.

The Charity wishes to develop sufficient reserves amounting to at least 6 months of expenditure, to provide a contingency in the event of any sudden loss of income, to cover any sudden or unexpected costs, and to allow for the creation of additional teams if sufficient players and volunteers are identified. The cost of replacing a kit for an entire team, for example, is often required every two-three years, but cannot always be met by donations or grants.

The Charity is also seeking to secure improved winter training facilities, which will create an additional financial burden in future years.

Declarations

Approved by the trustees on 15th January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



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Jill Upton - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club on the accounts for the year ended 30th June 2024

Charity no 1188351

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2024.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Name: Angela Futter

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

St Johns
107 Highfields Road
Highfields Caldecote
Cambridge
CB23 7NX

Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club
Charity Number 1188351

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts				
Subscriptions	41,971	-	41,971	25,129
Kit	-	-	-	556
Events/Tours	3,770	-	3,770	4,274
Sponsorship/Grants	17,395	-	17,395	16,890
Schools	2,147	-	2,147	2,948
Tuck/Gate	11,174	-	11,174	7,839
Miscellaneous	341	-	341	216
Sub total	76,798	-	76,798	57,852
Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	76,798		76,798	57,852
Payments				
Kit/Equipment	19,016		19,016	26,976
Pitch Hire	28,908		28,908	16,164
Fines	379		379	0
Tuck/Awards	7,640		7,640	3,041
Leagues/FA/Fines	1,546		1,546	3,218
Coaching	7,414		7,414	7,202
Tournaments	505		505	635
Referees	5,638		5,638	3,900
Advertising	94		94	-
Ladies Food	108		108	139
Miscellaneous	974		974	504
Courses	1,015		1,015	2,005
Sub total	73,237		73,237	63,784
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	-
Total payments	73,237	-	73,237	63,784
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,561	-	3,561	-5,932
Transfers between funds		-		-
Cash funds last year end	6,801	-	6,801	12,733
Cash funds this year end	10,362	-	10,362	6,801

Bedford Ladies and Girls Football Club
Charity Number 1188351

Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £
Cash Funds	Nat West 1	10,362	
	Total Cash Funds	10,362	
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Other monetary assets	-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Investment assets	-	-	-	-
		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Assets retained for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-

Approved by the trustees on 15th January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Jill Upton - Trustee