



BISHOP'S STORTFORD COMMUNITY FC

News Update: September 2006

Welcome to a new season and we hope that all of the 850 boys and girls that form the Community club have enjoyed the summer break and, despite England's relatively poor performance at the World Cup, have started the season in good spirits.

The Committee of Bishop Stortford Community Football Club are aware that with so many players and parents involved it is difficult to ensure that all are always kept informed, and have resolved to improve communications this season. This newsletter starts the process. Everyone is reminded that all fixtures and results and club news is available on the club web site (www.bscfc.com).

Birchwood Astroturf and Sports Hall

• **Astroturf**

- You will recall that this season we asked for a £25 "CASC" donation towards the Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) project at Birchwood High School. This is a joint venture with the school which has been running for a few years and culminated in us submitting a bid for funding from the Football Foundation towards £1.2 million to provide a state-of-the-art, full-sized, floodlit, football facility at the School for our use. The Football Foundation provided 50% of the funding and between us, EHDC and the school we are raising the second 50% - hence the request to all 850 members for the donation. This is a one-off request but we will make the same request to new members throughout the projected 25 year life (in order to help maintain the facility).
- Work on the pitch is progressing well and the contractors (ERDC) are well ahead of programme, and our Project Managers (Wilby and Burnett) continue to be impressed with progress. The majority of the pitch foundations, sub-base and surrounds are complete. Since the contractors are ahead of plan they have now started working on erection of the floodlights. The first phase is due to be completed in early November to allow the Nursery to be relocated from Birchwood to Summercroft.
- Phase 2 is then scheduled to begin on 8th January 2007, with the completion scheduled 6 to 8 weeks afterwards. However there are risks to this date namely;
 - a) Should the relocation of the nursery not happen as smoothly as expected then Phase 2 cannot start on time.
 - b) The weather; the Astoturf carpet cannot be laid in conditions that are too wet, and or icy, and given that this could be in February it may delay completion.
- Further information and the plans relating to the Astroturf project will be displayed at a Birchwood open evening on 3rd October.

• **Sportshall at Birchwood School**

- The Sportshall (which forms part of our Football Foundation bid) at Birchwood is still on course to be completed in early November. Hopefully we will be able to use this facility once available.

Tesco Vouchers

- We are again collecting Tesco's vouchers to provide additional equipment for the all players. Please forward any vouchers that you have to your manager who will pass them on to me. Alternatively deposit them in the collection box at the Friedberg Avenue Clubhouse. A successful collection of these will help towards reducing the running costs of the club in future years, so please can we have your vouchers.

Club Kit and Equipment

- All Managers have been, or will be by the 1st of October, provided with all kit and the equipment requested. Please let your Manager know should you believe that there are any issues with your team.
- The Community club has so far this year spent approximately £11,000 on new kit and equipment paid for from the clubs annual fees.

Development Centre

- The Development Centre training (for Under 8's and 9's) is up and running on Saturday mornings at the Friedberg Avenue (behind the Harvest Moon Public House) and has been received well by the players, coaches and parents. Should anyone have a couple of hours free it would be appreciated if you could help out selling teas, coffees etc between 9 and 11:30. Please let the Club know.



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Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)

- The Community Club is now a registered CASC and as part of our budgeting this year we have assumed that we are able in the vast majority of cases to recover Gift Aid donations made to the Club. At this point I am pleased to say that the vast majority of parents and carers have been able to support this principle with funds - but not always with paperwork. Unfortunately we are unable to recover the taxable element without signed forms and this is worth up to £16.80 per player and of course enables us to meet our obligation with regard to the ATP. At this point in time we have close to 200 "queries" on fees / paperwork and urgently need you help to your Team Manager in resolving these issues. This is a one-off process this season and when completed we will retain the forms on file for future use!

Volunteers

- As always the Club would benefit from additional volunteers – please come forward and offer help – however much or little time you give would be gratefully received.

Training

- Please note that is your responsibility, as a parent, to ensure that your child is registered with the Coach before you leave the immediate area. Unfortunately we have had a number of recent examples of parents leaving their child in the Car Park of the relevant training facility and expecting them to find their way to the coach. In the interests of Child Protection we cannot allow this to continue and **MUST** ask for your support in stopping this poor practice.

Match Delegates

- From the Under 10 age group upwards it is a Royston Crow League rule that each team should provide a "Match Delegate". The role of this nominee is to act as the interface between the two Clubs on match day and to allow the manager or coach to organise the players. A typical morning for home fixtures would involve "meeting and greeting" the opposition, letting them know where the pitch, changing rooms, toilets, tea and coffee shop are located. This small gesture goes a long way to smoothing relationships throughout the day. The match delegate should then introduce themselves to the referee. The role is to then enjoy the match, but be available as a focal point should the referee or opposition need help with our team / managers / coaches / supporters. The Match Delegate will know the Bishop Stortford Community personnel better should any conflicts arise; leaving the manager to focus on the game. We would like to extend the role of the match delegate throughout the Club into the Girls section and mini soccer age groups at U8 and U9 as it is clearly good practice.
- In addition we would like to invite the Match Delegates to occasional social evenings where they can meet the Committee and other match delegates in an informal setting in order to thank them and to share experiences / provide team specific feedback to the committee.
- Your managers will be looking for volunteers so please should you be asked or volunteer yourself, please consider this as it is pivotal role within both your team and the community club.

Courses

- Already this season we have run an FA Level 1 course and all 18 candidates passed. We have also run a basic first aid course for 10 personnel. Later in the season we intend to run a referees course, emergency first aid and Child Protection courses. Please contact the Secretary (secretary@bscfc.com) if you are interested in any of these courses.

Match-Day Parking

- With continual parking problems at most of venues (home and away) please consider sharing lifts with other team members where possible.

Sponsorship

- Another point that maybe worth mentioning is that we are always on the look out for team and / or club sponsorship, (lots of little contributions are as good as a couple of larger ones) - anyone out there in 'work land' who thinks the company they work for maybe interested?

Issues

- And finally please let the Club know of any specific issues that you or your Child has with any aspect of the running of the Club. We welcome feedback and cannot act if we do not know what the concerns are.