



Sutton United

SUNS

the Sutton United Newsletter for Sustainability

Issue Two

January 2024

A Belated Happy New Year.

Welcome to the second edition.

ENVIRONMENT

Publication of our 2022/23 report has been delayed while we work on the figures for the carbon footprint section, but we do hope to publish very soon.

Assessment

In the EFL's Green Code scheme we have advanced from our initial score of 47 to 57, and are confident that when we are ready for the external audit in early 2024 we will meet the threshold of 76 points. We have an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place, aligned to the principles of ISO:14001, and also an energy management system that not only helps us to manage our buildings more efficiently but also monitors the associated carbon emissions.

We are also now about to complete our submission to the new Green Mark scheme introduced by Sutton Council. Membership of this scheme also leads to a rates rebate, and the organisers are likely to feature us in a case study to promote the scheme.

Initiatives

In early November we launched an Energy Efficiency campaign. Initially this consist of a series of six posters that address simple actions to avoid wasting energy. The second poster has now been circulated and a copy is on display in the office.

We had enjoyed a 5-year fixed price contract for our electricity supply, but that expired in December and we have taken advantage of the renewal opportunity to switch to a renewable, zero carbon tariff.

February 2nd to 5th will be the EFL's Green Football Weekend and we are exploring how best to put in place activities that align with that (keep an eye out for Craig Dundas's favourite vegetarian recipe), and the Green Football Cup (a fan engagement initiative) will run from January 18th to February 7th.

SOCIAL VALUE

There will a fans forum at the club on 24th January.

October was Black History Month and we celebrated with articles on our website celebrating the careers of some of our past and current players who have black heritage, and we also worked with the Sutton United Podcast to arrange a few player interviews.

In December we supported the EFL's message that football should be a safe and enjoyable place for everyone #LoveFootball #ProtectTheGame

We hosted a Q&A evening with England legend Bryan Robson in aid of the Poppy's Path charity.

Our under-10 and under-11 girls' teams acted as mascots, ball-girls and flag-wavers for our first team against Sport London E Benfica in the Vitality Women's FA Cup.

We were featured on Radio London before the Morecambe home game with an interview focusing on our EDI initiatives.

We continue to run our Friday coffee mornings, which are likely to be welcomed as we look forward to a forecast spell of cold weather. Introduced last winter as a Warm Spaces initiative, the club's 1898 Lounge is open every Friday warming with a free invitation for the borough's residents to pop along for a chat, a coffee and maybe a slice of cake.

When we played at home to Barrow we hosted a number of volunteers that work in our Foundation programmes including, disability and walking football. Follow this [link](#) for a feature on Fred, who runs the weekly walking football sessions. There was also a collection of food to donate to Sutton Community Works. Ellie, a teacher at Carew Manor where we run coaching sessions in conjunction with Jamie De Cruz, also brought over 90 pupils and their families to the game and there were also representatives from three other girls' schools where we provide coaching. We also hosted two fans completing their challenge to join the "92 Club" and we were delighted to read such a warm response from them in their blog when they talk about their visit: <https://92fcchallenge.co.uk/2024/01/14/2794/> We have also been pleased to receive so many really positive emails from away fans who appreciate the way they are treated and welcomed when they come to the VBS, and often describe our stewards as the best in the league.

Dave Farebrother CEnv

Sustainability Lead