



Sutton United

SUNS

the Sutton United Newsletter for Sustainability

Issue Four

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ENVIRONMENT

Our 2022/23 CSR Report has now been published. [Link:- Sutton United CSR Report 2022/23 by suttonunitedfc - Issue Work](#) has already commenced on our 23/24 report, which will hopefully be published in a more timely fashion.

Assessment

We were delighted to be advised by the EFL's consultants that we have become only the third club to be accredited under the Green Clubs scheme. It was touch and go though, only just achieving the minimum score of 76 marks in the audited survey. We were pleased to learn that the EFL has picked up on our internal delivery of a Climate Fresk last year to train its own green team as facilitators to deliver the awareness training amongst clubs.

LB of Sutton has just launched year two of its similar Green Mark scheme and we are preparing our response for the first phase of reporting in July. That initiative requires us to achieve year on year carbon reductions, but the good news is that we will halve our monthly Scope 2 emissions following signing a new green contract with our suppliers.

Initiatives

We continue to circulate posters as part of our Energy Efficiency campaign. Poster 6 has now been circulated and a copy is on display on the club noticeboard.

We are planning discussions with caterers Alltime to explore ways of reducing food waste and hope to run a matchday "bring your own cup" scheme next season, with a discount on tea and coffee for anyone who brings their own reusable cup rather than have one of the standard disposable ones. This will be sponsored, so no cost to the club or caterers. Following the completion of groundworks this summer, we have also been offered some raised beds, which enhance local biodiversity, and we plan to use these as herb gardens so that the produce can be used in our kitchens. The club's Foundation is also exploring the possibility of installing additional raised beds with wild flower planting to encourage pollinators. We are hoping to stage a competition with a local school or schools to design a bug hotel, which would then be constructed in a suitable place.

SOCIAL VALUE

In early May we hosted a charity match in aid of Scarlett, an 11-year-old Sutton girl whose life changed in 2020. In September 2020, Scarlett complained to her parents that her legs hurt. Her legs collapsed and she lost the use of them from the waist down. It turned out she had a rare cavernoma that ruptured in her spinal chord which caused her to lose the use of her legs.

Since 2020 Scarlett has been so brave and working really hard on her strength but she is still in a wheelchair. Her family, who are from Sutton, have even moved home so that they are closer to a rehabilitation centre for her. As you can imagine all the rehabilitation and treatment costs a lot. As support, we staged a charity football game to raise money for Scarlett to continue her treatment and rehabilitation, and to purchase an easy-standing frame and a therapy dog.

The Sutton United Disability U's clinched the South East Western Disability League with a convincing 9-0 win in Collingwood Rec against title challengers Slough Town. Very well done to all concerned. There will now be a play-off game early next season against the Eastern division champions. As a curtain-raiser to the new season

our U's and Ganders disability teams took part in the first ever Surrey FA Pan-Disability Cup for Elite Premiership and Championship levels.

The U's Premiership team, fresh from an impressive 3rd place finish in the George Best Cup in Belfast, enjoyed an unbeaten day winning the Elite Level Cup. The Championship level saw our Ganders team finish top of their group for a final against Motspur Park, which they won. This proved with Paul Young scoring the only goal of the final.

Meanwhile our women's reserve team had been narrowly defeated in their County divisional cup final by Leatherhead. This was manager Courtney Bartlett's final game in charge, and we thank her for all of her efforts over several years and wish her well with her coaching career.

In May, the Sutton United Foundation Walking Football Team and The Change Foundation combined to play some friendly matches at The Change Foundation's centre in Beddington. The Change Foundation has 45 signed up members, and the day with Sutton United provided an opportunity to bring together two groups of walking sport participants. The teams were mixed up to promote a sense of community, with six teams able to play against each other once. The day went very well and was great to see the groups being able to celebrate the amazing impact that walking football and feeling part of a community has on those who take part.

Bobby Childs, Head of Foundation at Sutton United said "Thanks to Ryan, Billy the coach and all The Change Foundation walking football players for hosting us at The Change Foundation in Beddington. It was the first time our walking footballers had done a warm-up in years so that woke them up 😊, and everyone enjoyed a great day.

The Sutton United Foundation runs sessions on Wednesday mornings at Goals Soccer Centre in North Cheam.

Our women's first team has secured a new, regular home venue for our games in the L&SERWL next season. We are delighted to have secured Chipstead FC as our regular home venue. Any home games in the women's FA Cup will hopefully be played at Sutton. After carefully examining the economics of running three senior teams and providing the best possible route for our young players to advance out of our junior girls section, it has been decided not to run a Development squad in the South East Counties League next season, and instead we will enter a team into the Junior Premier League, accelerating the pathway for our best young players into adult football. Looking at our younger age groups, congratulations go to our Under 13 girls' team, who finished the 2023/2024 Surrey County Women's and Girls' League season on a high by clinching the Under 13 Tier 1 league title. That success rounds off a long, challenging but rewarding season which also saw the team win the Surrey FA County Cup having earlier been narrowly beaten in the League Cup final.

It's not just at under 13 level that our girls' section has enjoyed a good season, with our Under 10s reaching the final of the Surrey County Women's and Girls' League Cup at their age level, and then triumphant at the Merstham Youth Tournament (below). The Under 12s reached the semi-finals of their League Cup.

More broadly, Sutton United Foundation is now offering football sessions for children aged 18 months to 3 years, focused on learning football through play, with a huge emphasis on fun! Drills, games and activities are used to keep the young children engaged, enabling them to learn and achieve their potential. As well as developing fundamental motor skills such as coordination, children will be able to focus on the basic concepts of football like kicking and running, and also learn important life skills such as making friends, taking turns and working together. We use positive reinforcement and a nurturing environment to praise children for getting involved and trying their best, to help boost their confidence and to form an early love for sport.

Finally, it has been announced that we will continue to be used as a home venue by Crystal Palace women, who will be playing in the Women's Super League next season.

Dave Farebrother CEnv

Sustainability Lead