



**Sutton United**

# SUNS

*the Sutton United Newsletter for Sustainability*

**Issue Five**

**October 2024**

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Club Sustainability Lead Dave Farebrother was recently named national Sustainability Champion for the sports sector in the annual BASIS awards. “Although this is an individual award, really it reflects on the great support from Liam McSherry, who has introduced so many new ideas, and the continued support from the Board, for example installing an EV charging point.

Now that our training ground has moved to the David Weir Centre we are providing breakfast and lunch for our squad at the stadium, and this is contributing to an increase in gas usage in the kitchen. To help ensure that we can reach our long-term carbon reduction targets we need to double our efforts to manage everyday energy usage by paying proper regard to heating set-points and run-times. Timely maintenance also helps keep heating systems efficient.

### **Assessment**

We are about to submit our latest assessment to the LBS Green Mark scheme, but are confident that the many advances made this year will help us to meet the required standard to retain Level 2 certification.

### **Initiatives**

We continue to circulate posters as part of our Energy Efficiency campaign. The most recent poster has been circulated and a copy is on display on the club noticeboard.

The club has installed, in partnership with the Ryan Canter Club, a high-speed EV charging point in our car-park. This is available to be used both internally and by the wider community and can be booked and paid for via an app.

In partnership with LBS and Our Bike we have acquired an electric cargo bike. This bike has a large carrying capacity, ideal for running kit up to the David Weir Centre or distributing items around the borough. The first 20 hours per month are available free within the club and the wider community can make use of the bike for £3/hour.

Liam has introduced a sponsored initiative to offer a 30p per cup discount on hot drinks on matchdays for any spectator who brings a reusable cup, and our caterers Alltime are tracking this.

We are currently looking at introducing two schemes relating to football boots. Firstly, a scheme to redistribute unwanted boots, and secondly a recycling scheme for boots that are no longer usable, rather than have one of the standard disposable ones.

Discussions were held with caterers Alltime to look at how they source food locally, to reduce food-miles, and practice waste minimisation and post-use waste management. They are also looking at the wider use of non-meat products for in-stadium catering – subject to demand of course.

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**

The Paul Alan Project has been announced as our Lead Charity Partner. PAP support vital life-saving work across the borough by providing and installing publicly available defibrillators and delivering training that can be so important in helping preserve lives.

We host their fund-raising Halloween party at the end of October.

Our latest celebrity supporter, Paul Brunson, staged the first of the AmberArmy100 events when we played at home to Ebbsfleet, encouraging those who do not normally attend live football to come and enjoy the experience.

In October the club used social media to share the important Samaritans campaign around raising awareness and the prevention of suicide.

In September, along with members of the local council, we went to Rose Hill Bowls Club to learn more about how partially sighted bowlers continue to enjoy the game. Our Foundation also launched its first Parkinson's walking football event.

Members of the first team squad joined a fun day with young children at one of our Kellogs summer camps.

The Sutton United Foundation is partnering with local schools to make cheap tickets available to pupils, for example with Cheam Common Junior School where Jenny Giraffe went to engage with the school children.

Our disability football teams have made their usual strong start to the new season, including a great day at The Nest with Norwich City FC. Both of our teams also ended up victorious in the inaugural Surrey FA Pan-Disability tournament in August

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We now have a Parkinson's Walking Football session on Wednesdays at 11.30 at Goals in Cheam, a football session for those who want a gentler pace and would suit those recovering from various health issues. This session is for both men & women together.

Junior Jays - football for kids & parents 18 months to 3 years every Wednesday morning at Sutton United in the MBA Lounge.

Our Foundation is working with a girls' school Wallington, St Philomenas, to help encourage girls in years 7-9 to take part in sport and exercise.

We invited well-known children's author Dan Freedman to talk about his work, and he entertained 60 young adults from the Witherslack group SEN schools from Bramley Hill, Greenholm and Queensmead House Schools.

Harry, our Community coach, has also been working with Brookways SEN school next to Goals in Cheam, and 50 of their pupils, staff and parents joined our Disability Team, their opponents Southwark and 40 adults from the Fantastic Freddie Foundation, 100 Hong Kongers & our Charity Sponsors at the First Men' game on Saturday 19 October to celebrate our Foundation Day.

Finally, we were delighted to hear recently from our friends at Sutton United Gambia FC. After a period of inaction they are looking to re-launch their men's team and to build upon their relationship with us.

*Dave Farebrother CEnv*

**Sustainability Lead**