

Dear Parent / Guardian and Supporter of Nether Green!

This is hopefully the first of many newsletters to come, informing you all of club information that we would like to share with you during your child's time playing for Nether Green. We called the email newsletter the Green'Un - for those of you who are of a certain age growing up in Sheffield, you would remember going to the paper shop on a Saturday night for a copy of this local sports paper which had all the day's football scores and reports on your teams, long before smartphones etc, just put the Nether Green twist on it!

In this first edition, we just wanted to inform you about the work going on behind the scenes since the new committee running the club was voted in last season. One of the key areas we wanted to improve was our parent/guardian interaction, so hopefully you may find this a good source of information going forward. We apologise in advance as there is a lot to catch up on here. The next edition will be more team focused as the new season kicks off, but please read to the end so you know more about our club and you understand the directions we are trying to go in.

So, let's introduce the new committee to you. All the positions are run by volunteers, most of whom also manage teams, so we are pretty busy alongside normal work and family life. Should you wish to discuss anything, please contact your Team Manager in the first instance, but feel free to contact any of us should you ever wish to on the details below:

Club Chairman

Matthew Knox – 07791956677 – <u>matthewcknox@hotmail.co.uk</u> Matthew currently is the manager for the girls U11 team



Club Secretary

Kieran Derricott - 07375062602 - kderricott1985@outlook.com
Kieran currently is the manager for the boys U13 team from Carr Vale (yes not NG!)



Club Welfare

Deborah Solomon - 07884208417 - <u>Deborah.solomon1@btinternet.com</u>

Debs has been in position for over 10 years, but will be handing over her position later this year (more on this in a future edition)



Club Finance

lan Marshall – 07977296835 – ngreenfooty@gmail.com lan currently is the manager the boys U16 team



Boys Development

Jonathan Smith – 07771921353 – <u>Jonathan.smith@hwm-water.com</u> Jonathan currently helps manage the boys U13 team



Girls Development

Ed Pinder – 07790615312 – <u>leempinder@hotmail.com</u> Ed currently manages the girls U12 team



Club Pitch/Maintenance Officer

Kevin Rhone – 07590961796 – <u>kevin rhone@yahoo.co.uk</u> Kevin currently manages the girls U12 team



Now you have met the committee, let's tell you about some of things we are trying to do to improve the club.

Pitches

Not sure if you know, but we don't actually own the pitches or pavilion building at Bents Green. We only lease this from Sheffield Council, so we are limited to what we can alter but we are always looking for ways to improve our players' experience. We obtained a pitch maintenance grant from the FA last season with the first real treatment being in March. This is a £15k per season grant for the next 5 years. We have employed a specialist pitch maintenance company called "Premier Pitches" to facilitate this work throughout the season (namely March and Sept when the grass growing season is at its best). We all want better pitches, so bear with us, over the next few years we expect this to improve year on year, but it won't happen overnight.

To help with the pitches, we also obtained a Goal grant from the FA. This has enabled us to buy new metal "pull out goals" for next season on every pitch. This means the council will not be re-installing the fixed goals next season, enabling the pitches to recover quicker between games, especially in the goal mouth areas, where in the past everyone would use them for a kick around for recreational play. Again small steps but it all will help. This does mean however that on a match day next season, your managers will be asking you for help carrying these out to the pitches before and after games. If you could assist them it would be appreciated. Currently, the 9 aside/11 aside plateau pitch goals are padlocked behind the pavilion. Once the full size goals are built, they too will be stored there. The 5 aside/7 aside goals are stored in the container in the Common Lane car park. We are in discussions with the council to try and obtain a larger length container so that all of the new goals can be safely stored and locked away, more to follow in the next edition.

Facilities

Like the pitches, the building is leased from the council. We all appreciate its not the best; some clubs don't even have any facilities! We recently cleaned the building out and tried to make it tidier. If you can help us on a match day to keep it that way, when your team take out or put away, it would again be appreciated. The first room on the right was becoming a dumping ground of kit. This is now solely used for our groundsman, Duncan, storing his line marker machine, line paint and other maintenance equipment he needs. This room also has the only plugs in the building, so can be used by the teams for boiling kettles etc for those running tuck shops. Please refrain from using this for anything else.

Nothing should now be left on the floor of the central corridor causing trip hazards or obstructions. The back right changing room has been cleaned out to make this a space should any team need it to avoid horrible weather during training or a match day or for changing. Tables for tuck shops can also be found here. Also, you may not be aware, but the club defibrillator is on the wall as you enter this room. Maybe next time you are close to the building, pop in and familiarise yourself with its location.

The left back changing room is now the place for all match day and training equipment, with buckets of poles and corners flags, cones and markers, along with respect barriers. Please can we all ensure the equipment is returned here on match days or after training sessions to make everyone a little more respectful of our facilities.





The container in the Common Lane car park has corner flags and respect barriers along with tuck shop tables for the plateau/5aside and 7aside pitches to save having to come across to the pavilion building on a match days.

We have recently engaged with the council to talk with all interested parties in renovating/rebuilding the pavilion. This includes cricket and Work Ltd. A proposal is currently been drawn up to initiate a feasibility study to be under taken from the council. This could be a 3 or 4 year project in their experience before we see changes completed to the building but again we have to start somewhere. We are all fully aware that we need better facilities, but this is the first time all parties have sat round a table and started this process with a single common goal.

Club Funds

It's this time of year that teams will be registering the players for the new season ahead. Every team and each player has to be registered with the league. No player can play for another team whilst registered with Nether Green club unless they get deregistered by the league and in agreement with the team. Each player pays an annual subs rate to cover the whole season. Money raised from subs is split between the individual team and the Nether Green club central fund. The central fund covers the cost for registration, home pitch lease/maintenance and insurance. Individual team funds cover, referees, training equipment, winter training pitches and team kit. Most teams will organise a match day tuck shop/raffle run by parents to help boost the individual team funds. Each team has to produce an annual set of accounts along with the club's central fund so it's clear and visible to anyone should they wish to view them.

Annual subscriptions for the season ahead is set at £200 per player (or £175 if a sibling is also a player member). From this money each team pays the central fund £65 per player (or £40 for a sibling playing member), the remaining money stay with the individual team.

Other News

We have been allocated a "Club Consultant" from the FA, only one of two clubs selected from our affiliated Sheffield league, so we will be working with him on areas where we feel we need to improve as a club over the coming months. We will update in future editions.

We are looking into a brand new website over the next few months to increase our club profile and keep everyone more up to date.

We have also engaged meetings with Work Ltd/Hidden Gem about improving our relationship. They actually own the car park next to the pavilion, so we are actually "guests" in their car park on match days. During training nights and Sundays, their charity business and café are closed but on Saturdays the café is open. This is actually their main source of income to support Work Ltd (the charity for adult students with learning disabilities). We must be mindful that we must avoid parking in the pavilion car park on a Saturday and please **ONLY** use Common Lane car park or the road so we don't affect their trade from regular visitors. We are working hard to build a relationship, as their funding, along with ours, could be the main contribution towards the new renovated pavilion, so please help us keep those positive relationships. We have highlighted the Common Lane car park below if you are unsure.



Team News

Not much team news to report in the off season, but we hope that the next edition will be packed with news from the actual teams, so you can follow not only your own child's team, but see what the other teams are up to as well. We had a couple of summer tournament successes to date; the U10 boys were runners up in the LJS tournament run by Billy Sharp and the U12 girls went one better and won the Dinnington summer tournament. Well done to both of you!





We will have 2 new boys teams joining us from the development squad, entering the league at U8 next season under new managers Ben, Steve & Paul. We also have 2 new girls teams starting next season, a new U8 managed by James & Dave and a U10 managed by Rich & Steve, we welcome all of you to the club.

We look forward to seeing them in action for the first time soon and it looks like we will have 22 teams across all boys and girls ages competing next season, a record number!

Well that's a rap for the first edition of the "Green'Un"!

We hope you got more of an insight into the Club and what plans are in place over the coming months and in some cases years, to try and improve your child's playing experience. We know we have a long way to go, but remember every member of the committee/manager or coach is a

volunteer. None of us get paid; we do it for the love of the game and for our kids. If you are reading this and want to get involved in any capacity, contact any of us via the details above and we would be more than happy to discuss. You can follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with any news in the meantime https://www.facebook.com/nethergreenfc (In fact that's one area we are looking for help with, someone to run our social media side!)

We are using the mailing list we have from last season, so appreciate some players may now have left the club, if you wish to be removed please reply to me back and will make sure you are removed from future correspondence and update ready for the start of the new season.

Until the next edition, have a great summer!

Jonathan Smith Nether Green FC

