



Edition 4 – May 24

Dear Parent/Guardian and Supporter of Nether Green!

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Green'Un. In this edition, we conclude our teams' seasons and update you of our plans for next season.

#### Subs for 2024/25 season

We have taken the decision as a club to increase our subs for next season to £225 per player, or £200 per player if you have a sibling in another Nether Green team. We have not increased subs for a few years and still feel this offers excellent value for money and is still cheaper than any other team in our local vicinity. We are looking to put extra money into the central fund from every player to improve our facilities further (read on to see what we have achieved this year). Your team manager will be discussing this with you shortly and the registration of players for next season.

#### New Treasurer Needed



We are on the look-out for a new volunteer parent to join the committee in the role of Club Treasurer. **This is a key role that the Club must have in place if we are to continue our affiliation with the League and FA.** Our current treasurer, Ian Marshall, U16 Boys Manager, took the role initially on a temporary basis 18 months ago whilst we stabilised the new committee. Ian will leave this role in July but for our club to exist, we must find a replacement. Not necessarily having an accounting background, but it may help being organised. We are looking for someone to join us who could give us typically one hour a week to look after this position.

**To help incentivise this position, we are prepared as a club to pay next seasons subs for up to two children you may have playing, this could save you over £400!!**

If you can help us, please get in contact with our Club Chairman, Matthew Knox via email [matthewcknox@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:matthewcknox@hotmail.co.uk)

## Pitches / Facilities

Well, what can we say. A winter of unprecedented prolonged rain, one of the wettest winters on record. All of our teams suffered this year having to flip many of their games away or find alternative astro pitches, or had to play a backlog of games in a short space of time at the end of the season.

However, with the first year of pitch treatment in the bag and the removal of permanent goals last summer, we can all see the benefit, with more grass and less muddy goal mouths than any previous season. We will be continuing our tapered FA pitch grant for the next 4 seasons, so this should improve year on year.

You will see there are new parking signs warning people that the car park gates on Common Lane will be kept locked in an evening and outside of football times. If you are the last one leaving the car park on a match day, please check that the gates are locked behind you. It would be appreciated by all concerned.

Back in January, with the help of managers Ben and Jonathan, along with parents Matthew, David and Giovanni, they managed to make some quick running repairs to the Common Lane car park filling in holes and making a solid base foundation for the arrival of our new container. 10 tonnes of hardcore moved and laid - back breaking stuff!



The club invested £5000 in a new shipping container back in March to store all match day equipment including the goals, corner flags and respect barriers. We were able to claim 75% of this investment back via an FA funding grant. This helps secure our goal post investment from last summer. The smaller container holds equipment for the U12 teams and below, and the larger container for teams U13 upwards. In recent weeks, we have found bags of rubbish in there from a tuck shop. Please use the bins on site for this; we wish to keep these containers tidy for their intend use.



We have joined into a community group focusing on the demolition of the aging pavilion building. The working group includes WORK Ltd, a local cricket team, council leaders, the ECB, the FA and the local residents committee. Currently we are at the stage of finalising possible building design and relocation, before going for planning permission and a council tender process for one of their contractors to build it. We have many hurdles to navigate and even if we can do this, it may be 2/3 years away from fruition, but the positive is that all parties involved are meeting and talking regularly and are moving forward together for the first time ever in the club's history. We don't own the pavilion building, but we are doing what we can to try and improve our teams experience on a match day.

Potential site/building layouts shown below is just one of the examples being discussed as a possible option.



Option 2b - Floor Plan

100

Comparison of Design Options			
Option	Gross Floor Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Gross Internal Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Gross External Area (m <sup>2</sup> )
Existing	106.1	111.2	126.2
Option 1b	225.3	233.3	258.2
Option 2a	263.3	263.2	324.4
Option 2b	253.0	282.5	292.3

- KEY:
- Changing = [Pink]
  - Circulation = [Blue]
  - Hall Space = [Yellow]
  - Kitchen = [Orange]
  - Plant = [Light Blue]
  - Specific = [Purple]
  - Storage = [Light Green]
  - Toilet = [Light Purple]

## New Website



Have you visited our new website which has appeared over the last couple of months? It provides info about each team, club news and all the important club documents should you need it. Take a look.....

<https://nethergreenfc.co.uk/>

and make sure you follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/nethergreenfc>

## Parent Help

Amongst all our parents at the Club, if you have some skills that you think you could help us or have an idea you think could help to improve us, then please come forward and chat to us. The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load on just a few and the more that can be achieved to help improve every aspect of our Club.

## New Rules for teams next season regarding heading – U7 to U9 teams

As a result, from the start of the 2024-25 season for U7-U9 teams, changes to the rules regarding heading the ball will change. These will then be rolled out to include U10 level from 2025-26, and U11 level from 2026-27 seasons.

Deliberate Header Restart:

- Deliberately heading the ball is an offence punishable by an indirect free kick
- The indirect free kick is taken at the point where the ball was deliberately headed, except:
  - o Where a player deliberately heads the ball within their own penalty area, the referee will stop the game and restart with an indirect free kick to the opposition from the nearest side line of the penalty area where the offence took place

Touchline Restart:

- When the whole of the ball passes over the whole of the touchline, on the ground or in the air, instead of a throw-in, a pass-in/dribble-in is awarded
- The kicker that takes the pass-in/dribble-in may touch the ball again before it is touched by another player
- At the moment of delivering the ball:
  - o The ball must be stationary on the touchline at the point where it left the pitch; only the kicker may be off the pitch
  - o All opponents must stand at least five yards from the point on the touchline where the pass-in or /dribble-in is to be taken from
- A goal cannot be scored directly from a pass-in
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves

The full article and explanation can be found via this link if you wish to read more:

<https://www.thefa.com/news/2024/may/17/new-heading-rules-for-grassroots-football-youth-matches>



## Teams Update

An end of season team update below, with added commentary from some of the Team Managers who contributed on how their season concluded. Tables are only shown from U12 upwards for boys, so links for younger age groups will just show their fixtures.

## The Boys Teams

### Development

We currently have 20 players with us on the astro pitches at Goodwin every Sunday morning. These will eventually create new teams for the future. We already have a team created ready for league entry at U8 next season in September; thanks to Rob and Chris for volunteering to coach and manage the team moving forward.

We also have managed to create a new U10 team starting in September; thanks to Joe coming forward to take these boys. We look forward to supporting and watching both teams progress next season.

Our boys Development volunteer coach Scott Allen, which many of our younger teams know, has decided to retire this summer from coaching. This leaves us with a problem that we need to solve, as without our development coach, we can't progress players to team formation and the continuity of our teams for future years.



We are looking to recruit a couple of new Development coaches for our 5-7 year olds, for 1 hour per week. Our players have mixed playing abilities and need fun sessions which help to improve their football skills in preparation for team formation before they are 8. If you are interested in this role, please contact the club via email [enquires@nethergreenfc.co.uk](mailto:enquires@nethergreenfc.co.uk)

If you haven't had coaching experience before but are enthusiastic, we can help support and progress you quickly to the level required.

### Under 8s

We have 2 teams at U8s, Thunder and Lightning

Thunder are playing in Div Owls

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=15&selectedDivision=955679931&selectedCompetition=0#tab-2>

Lightning are playing in Div Magpies

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=15&selectedDivision=110927342&selectedCompetition=0#tab-2>

Manager Steve says, “NG U8's Thunder & Lightning finished our first season with a bang, celebrating with an end of season awards party at the Greystones..... plenty of awards for all the boys with some very imaginative categories including ‘The Barry Bannan Award for Composure on the Ball’, ‘The Vigil Van Dijk Award for Cool defending’, ‘The Phil Foden Tricky Winger award’ and ‘The Rabona Kick Off Award’ to name but a few!

Both teams are now looking forward to making the step up to 7-a-side with a summer of tournaments ahead of next season as 2 x Under 9's teams. Big shout out to all the coaches and parents for making our first season one to remember.”



#### Under 10s

Lions are playing in Div Mercury

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=13&selectedDivision=650280508&selectedCompetition=0#tab-2>

#### Under 11

Eagles are playing in Div Orange

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=12&selectedDivision=399577600&selectedCompetition=0#tab-2>



### Under 12s

Phoenix are playing in Div K.

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=11&selectedDivision=95740421&selectedCompetition=0>

Manager Dave says, "The Phoenix completed their 2nd full season and are still very much on a journey developing as a team. Games fell into 3 categories; consolidated its position against the teams who finished below, close games on those close to us and some more challenging games against the top teams. The team have learnt a great deal both tactically, and how to play as a team. We do have the opportunity to add 1 or 2 players with the move up to 11 a side. So, if anyone knows players wanting to join a side, it would be great to hear from them."



### Under 13s

We have two teams this season at U13s, Juniors and Rangers.

Juniors are playing in Div G

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=10&selectedDivision=595317325&selectedCompetition=0>

Manager Jonathan says, "What an unbelievable season for the boys, they managed to win the league just losing once all season on their penultimate game of the season. We also reached the final of the cup against a higher Division team, but sadly lost this one, but this didn't distract from a superb team effort from the players and parents this year."

If a team finishes 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in any of the boys' leagues, they are invited to the official end of season league presentation night at the Barnsley Metrodome. Pictures below show the team collecting their trophies from the league, to celebrate their winning season and collecting the league trophy.

Ironically two bothers, Oliver Smith (2023/24) and Jack Smith (2018/19) 5 years apart both have their names on the same G Division league trophy at U13's, both playing for Nether Green; what are the chances, a bit of NG history!





Rangers are playing in Div I

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=10&selectedDivision=90355438&selectedCompetition=0>

Under 14s

We have two teams this season at U14's, Gold and Red.

Gold are playing in Div C

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=9&selectedDivision=880032046&selectedCompetition=0>

Manager Dave says, "It's been a great season; we finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division C meaning the team are promoted to Division B next season. Congratulations to all involved!"



Reds are playing in Div D

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=9&selectedDivision=598997799&selectedCompetition=0>



### Under 15s

We have two teams this season at U15s, Panthers and Gold.

Panthers are playing in Div E

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html;jsessionid=D24680B2D9A1210C2C91E6788114839A?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=8&selectedDivision=44065843&selectedCompetition=0>

Manager Giles says, "Following two successive promotions, the unchanged U15 Panthers squad found it a tougher challenge this season, finishing 8th out of 10. The great escape sadly eluded them in their final game (their 4th in 8 days in the end of season fixture pileup), narrowly losing 2-1 to the 2nd placed team despite creating a hat-full of chances to win the game, which would have guaranteed safety. It would have been their 5th game in 8 days, had their penultimate game not been called off by the opposition, running scared after seeing how beautifully the Bents Green pitch had been mowed the night before by Panthers coaches, parents and players in preparation for a passing masterclass. Bring on next season, when the Phoenix rises!"

Gold are playing in Div G

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=8&selectedDivision=276930019&selectedCompetition=0>

### Under 16s

U16s are playing in Div D

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=7&selectedDivision=290214813&selectedCompetition=0>

### Under 17s

Gold are playing in Div B

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=300860210&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=6&selectedDivision=27501352&selectedCompetition=0>

After seven years, we've finally decided to call it a day as a competitive team. We started off as a new team in the bottom division and worked our way up to Division B, via a division play-off final where we impressed the spectating FA officials so much that they promoted us above the team we lost against in the final! It's been incredible to share this journey with a group of wonderful lads who began as small boys and turned into young men. We're so proud of our players – not just the original core players but those who joined us along the way and bought into our way of playing and behaving (technical mastery, working hard for each other, being respectful, treating effort and winning in the right way as more important than winning at all costs). Every time we became sad or disappointed at players leaving, new players came along who worked incredibly hard to hone their skills and integrate, and ended up developing the team in ways we couldn't have imagined. A big thank you to our parents for giving so much to the team too, whether providing constructive feedback, offering lifts, helping with nets and warm-ups on match days, selling raffle tickets, running the tuck shop or supporting social events. Finally, a big thank you also to the Nether Green committee; in some ways it feels a shame to be leaving just when things are really looking up for the club in terms of organisation and initiatives. We'll miss you all.

Neil, Arooj and Juan



As we say goodbye to Gold, the club would like to put on record its thanks to Neil, Arooj and Juan for their amazing amount of volunteering time over the years, taking this team through all the age groups. A great achievement which they should all be proud of.

## The Girls Teams

### Development

Girls development continues on Sunday mornings from 10am at Goodwin and it's hoping to create a new team for league entry next season.

### Under 8s

The team are playing in Div Blue

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=15&selectedDivision=493877828&selectedCompetition=0>

### Under 9s

The team are playing in Div Blue

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=14&selectedDivision=122785519&selectedCompetition=0>

Manager Jonathan says, "Our tough start to the season in the top league continued as we came up against some good sides. But the girls never let their spirits drop, giving it their all in each game. Without a fixed goalkeeper this season, a few of the girls have stepped up to help-out the team. The rest have played different positions when asked, so it's been a real team effort this year. We finished the season strongly, competitive against the assumed league leaders (no results published!) followed by two wins. All the girls have improved this year, they've listened well to what we're trying to do and we're already looking forward to next season."

### Under 10s

We have 2 teams this year at U10s Pumas and Lightning

Pumas are playing in Div Blue

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=13&selectedDivision=906968979&selectedCompetition=0>

Lightening are playing in Div Yellow

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=13&selectedDivision=614070411&selectedCompetition=0>

Under 11s

We have 2 teams this year at U11s Black and Gold

Black are playing in Div White

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=12&selectedDivision=906968979&selectedCompetition=0>

Gold are playing in Div Yellow

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=12&selectedDivision=920542186&selectedCompetition=0>

Under 12s

They are playing in Div 2

<https://fulltime.thefa.com/index.html?selectedSeason=251261039&selectedFixtureGroupAgeGroup=11&selectedDivision=89265425&selectedCompetition=0>

Well, that's the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Green'Un and the 2023/24 season.

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 ahead, 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 the 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.

**Last reminder! Please help us to find our new finance committee member or a development coach! We can't continue as a club without these roles being filled - don't hope that someone else will do it! Please step forward and let us know. We really would appreciate it.**

Be loud, be proud, but remember to show respect at all times whether you are playing or watching.

Have a great summer!

**Jonathan Smith**

Nether Green FC