

It's been a miracle we managed to play any football at all this season! We got off to a promising start but soon enough countless matches got rained off due to endless downpours - the ground didn't get chance to drain at all before the next match was cancelled!

Then came the Coronavirus pandemic. We have experienced nothing like it in our lifetime and hopefully won't ever again! We have loved seeing the innovative ways players have managed to practise their skills at home and who knew football training could be done by video link? Not quite the same, but a great substitute for the real thing!

As usual, the committee have been working hard behind the scenes. Coronavirus hasn't stopped them from pooling ideas and discussing ways to improve our ever-growing club (see page 2 for further details).

We are certainly looking forward to a more productive 2020-2021 season and can't wait to have everyone back in their red and black Hawks kits a.s.a.p!

Safety a Priority

We're sure the players have been disappointed with the lack of football this year, and we can't wait to get everyone back training again ahead of next season.

The Governments relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions from 1st June 2020 means that we are permitted to return to football training in small groups of 6 which includes a qualified Coach/Manager and we are aware of other local clubs who are back training already.

However, we at Hawks feel the welfare and safety of our players must be our first priority and as most teams consist of more than 15 children this is not an easy feat! To safeguard all children, managers and coaches, we need to put strict procedures in place concerning social distancing, sanitising hands, equipment and toilet facilities before we can consider a return to training. The committee are currently working together with managers and coaches to undertake risk assessments to ensure that all players have a safe environment to return to. There is currently no date set as yet for the start of the 2020/21 season but we hope to recommence training before the end of the summer.



Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are all getting used to doing more things online rather than in person and our AGM is no exception!

This important annual meeting will this year be conducted via Zoom on Wednesday 8th July at 7.30pm. If you wish to know more our exciting future plans for the Club, or simply see how your subs are spent – please email your Manager and they will forward the password so that you can join the meeting. We would love to see some new faces!

End of Season Presentation

Our annual 'End of Season Presentation Day' unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lockdown restrictions. However, we could not let the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our players go unacknowledged. We are pleased to confirm that trophies and medals have been ordered and these will be distributed to players by their Manager. Our fun day plans will be resurrected as soon as we are permitted to get together and celebrate with you all once again.

Hawk's Future Plans...

As you may be aware our club has expanded greatly over the last 6 years! We started off with one lone team and now, in 2020, our club boasts 15 teams with over 200 players!

Such rapid growth is a brilliant testament to the principles of our club and the high quality of football and opportunities afforded to our local children. However, we have been operating at full capacity for a couple of seasons now and the condition of our home ground at Wingfields is paying the price. Last season we were able to play some of our matches at Highcliffe Recreation ground however, the club recognise that to continue moving forward we need to obtain more pitches for home matches and invest heavily in our current facilities. Lockdown has afforded the committee some time to dedicate to this and we have been busy securing a deal for additional grounds, arranging for the existing pitches at Wingfields to be improved and had plans drawn up to expand and refurbish the clubhouse.

Unfortunately, this will come at great cost to the club. Last year our outgoings were in the region of £24,000 and that is without the extra costs we will incur to put our modest plans into place. We have not increased subs for the past couple of seasons and we do feel that players get great value for money. Most local youth football teams charge additional fees for matches and kits. Our managers and coaches are qualified to FA level 1 as an absolute minimum and most are at Level 2, or studying towards it, and all of these costs come out of player's subs.

We know that Coronavirus has affected the economy and are understanding of this. However, if you are in the position where you can afford to make a small additional donation when you pay your subs, we would be extremely grateful (please see below)! Likewise, if you know of any local organisations or employers who may be willing to support a worthwhile initiative, which will be of great benefit to our local community, please do let them know about our plans! We would love to hear from them. We already have the backing of Walkford and Highcliffe Parish Council and Hampshire FA but need as much financial help as we can get. As they say, every little helps!

Signing on for the 2020-2021 season

Although we have no date for the start of the new season – we still have a deadline by which we need to sign on players to play for Hawks in the 2020-2021 Bournemouth Youth Football League.

Signing on is easy! The administrator for your team will be in touch shortly and will send a signing on form to complete. If you are new to the Club, you will receive a welcome letter which explains how the club operates. We will also need a copy of photographic ID for any new players. Each player and their parent / carer will also need to read and sign a Code of Conduct form. You will be asked to pay £20.00 to sign your child on to play for the Club. Completed forms MUST be returned to your team admin by 10th July at the latest.

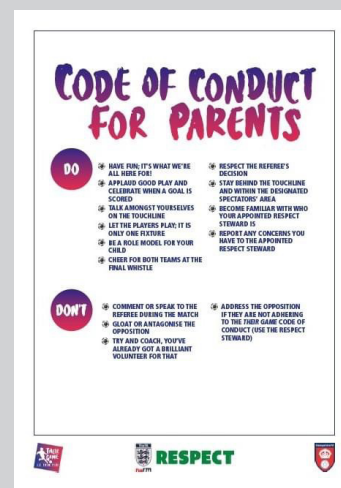
The Club appreciates that

individual circumstances may have changed due to the Coronavirus pandemic and therefore, although our club costs have increased, we will not be increasing the subs for this season. If however, you wish to make an additional voluntary payment of £5 per player, this would be very much appreciated to cover some of our increased costs for the forthcoming season.

The total cost of subs is £140.00 for the year. A £20.00 initial signing on fee plus £120.00, which can be paid as a lump sum or the cost can be spread evenly over 8 monthly payments of £15 per month.

The £20 signing on fee is payable up front, however, as we do not yet know if the season will start in September please do not make any further payments at this stage. We will notify you once further payments are due.

Hampshire FA also require a parent's email to be linked to their child, which we will register on the FA website. This is a new requirement and in order to do this we need to record the parent's date of birth and home address also. These details will be requested on the signing on form - please don't think we are being nosey – it's simply a new FA requirement!



Christmas Celebrated in Style!

We did manage to have some fun this season! Although it may seem like a lifetime ago, our Christmas parties were a huge success.

The younger teams enjoyed a disco at Hoburne Naish whilst many of the older teams gave ten-pin bowling a go in Bournemouth. The Under 15's went ski-bobbing at Snowtrax and the Under 11's trained like pro's at the world's first technical football centre in Bournemouth!

Fingers crossed things will be back to normal by Christmas this year and we can enjoy some fun activities together once again!



Rainbow Laces Campaign

Back in November, Hawks supported the Rainbow Laces Campaign, championed by Hampshire FA.



This initiative aims to promote the inclusion of LGBT groups in football and as we wholeheartedly welcome diversity within our club we backed the campaign by actively promoting the ethos of equality and inclusion within all of our teams and on our social media sites. A selection of our teams were lucky enough to receive rainbow laces and all wore them with pride. We are looking forward to supporting this campaign again later this year.



Step up to Support the Club

As the Club continues to expand, we are in desperate need of more volunteers. Running a club of this size takes a lot of work, but the more people who are willing to help, the easier it is to share the workload. We are a friendly bunch and there are lots of different roles. Even if you think you don't have anything to offer there is sure to be something you can assist with... It's not even essential to know anything about football!!!

Individual teams need assistance with administration, refreshments, respect official roles and refereeing and running the line on match days. If you would like to offer some of your time to assist your team, please speak to your team manager.

In particular, the current committee have been in their roles for many years and we feel that the time is right to pass on our knowledge and experience so that the younger teams can carry the club forwards over the next 5 years or more! The committee have worked

so hard putting in the groundwork and hope that other passionate and dedicated individuals will step forward to support the club so that Hawks can continue to offer excellent sporting opportunities for local children. This is such an exciting time to join the committee and get involved. For more information please contact the Club Secretary, Lynsey Morris at:
lynsmorris@hotmail.com



We wish you all a great summer, stay safe!



Hawks on Social Media



Did you know we have a Facebook page and a Twitter account? Please 'like' or follow us to keep up to date with news, information and important dates! Or we would love it if you could leave a review – so that everyone knows what a friendly and welcoming club we are!



Please contact Jackie Pitt (jackiedmac@yahoo.com) or Becky Burke (becky@wsva.co.uk) with any feedback or submissions for the newsletter.