

## **LONGSTANTON FOOTBALL CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

Longstanton Colts Football Club continues to go from strength to strength, as a club we are now providing football coaching and matches for over 150 boys & girls, ranging from 5-17 yrs old. This season has seen our Under 17's become league champions, which is a fantastic achievement for Paul Key and his team.

Next season we will be adding more teams to our club, which will include a Soccer Tots Group for the Reception age children, an Under 6's, a Ladies Team & a Mens Team. Growth like this can only be achieved by the support of our numerous volunteers, coaches and sponsors, whom without we would not exist.

The club is facing a number of key challenges in supporting our growth, notably:

- The lack of an adequate amount of pitches to play football on. Our only full size pitch will see five teams playing on one pitch in 2017/18 season. The club will inevitably have to cancel more matches and rent pitches in villages with better facilities at cost of £40-£50 per game.
- With no all-weather facilities or floodlights available the club has to use neighbouring villages of Over, Cottenham, Barhill and Histon at a cost of £20 per session. The club and its members have had to spend c£2,500 to allow the players and coaching to have midweek training.
- Although the younger members of our club do not traditionally use changing facilities the lack of these facilities are becoming a higher priority with the expanding older teams now playing for the club.

The lack of investment in adequate sporting facilities in a rapidly growing village is an area of major concern for our club. The club is currently exploring a number of options to decide its future model. These include moving to Northstowe, stopping expansion and trying to find land to extend into.

On a positive note the club has maintained its FA Chartered Status with all our team now having FA qualified coaches, necessary safeguarding criteria in place and the FA's RESPECT programme being delivered. The club and its members have been working collaboratively with the other sports groups in the village and have been doing considerable work on the out pitches to improve playing conditions. A volunteer groundsman is now in place for Longstanton Football Club who is marking out pitches, doing maintenance work and generally keeping the recreation ground in a more desirable state particularly when it is not serviced by the Parish Councils grounds maintenance contract in the winter months. I think the improving condition of the recreation ground is evident and we would like to thank Brookfield Groundcare and our other village sports clubs for helping achieve these improvements.

The support of the village is a key part of our club and we would like to welcome you all to our End of Season Presentation Day, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 1pm at the recreation ground. All players will receive their medals from the Club, along with the Managers Presentation trophies.

The BBQ will be running all afternoon, with numerous activities organised for the boys and girls. These will include 2 inflatable pitches, provided by Cambridge United as part of our partner status with them.

Please come along and support this valuable asset to the village, which next season will offer football to in excess of 250 boys, girls, men & women.

Brian O'Sullivan  
Club Chairman