

Badgers Bulletin

ISSUE 1, October 2011

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Welcome to the new Badgers newsletter which will be published three or four times during the season. The Badgers Bulletin is intended to keep all those associated with the club informed about what is going on in the club. We hope you will find it informative, useful and as the format develops, maybe even entertaining!

FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN

I have been involved with the club as a Manager for the past 5 years and was proud to be elected as the new Chairman of BBFC at the AGM in July. Over the last 30 years or so the club has grown to become a brilliant organisation, currently providing 300 boys and girls with the opportunity to take part and benefit from participation in the 'beautiful game'. It is my intention, working as part of the club's Management Committee, to ensure the good work continues to improve and develop the 'Badgers experience' for all those associated with the club.

The Management team is made up of Alison Robins (Secretary/ Membership), Alan Gout (Treasurer), Ian Kehl (Head of Football), Fiona Rabbetts (Events), Martin Bangs (Development), Bryan Bletso (Dorking FC liaison/ Legal Advisor), Gordon Walker (Welfare Officer) and Dave Allen (Procurement).

This group of people is essential to the smooth running of the club and over the next weeks and months we will be looking to expand this team to ensure the club stays strong and continues to develop as we need it to. Partly this will be creating new roles and partly developing small teams to better deal with workloads currently undertaken by individuals.

'Situations Vacant' will be notified in the Bulletin and if you see a role that might be of interest to you please let us know. Even if you have not previously been involved with running the club we need new ideas and fresh perspectives, so please don't be shy in coming forwards!

Good luck to all our teams for the new season. Simon Haines, Chairman, BBFC

THANK YOU

A big vote of thanks to our departing Chairman Grant Ashley. During his 6 years in office the club has changed enormously and all for the better. Thanks also to Jane and Roger Mahony who have decided to 'hang up their boots'. Roger developed and managed the BBFC website and has been a major contributor to the development of both the club and our World Cup tournament. Jane has been the Director of our World Cup Tournament for the last two years and has done a fabulous job. Enjoy your retirement all!

FOOTBALL

One of our key goals is to improve the quality and strength in depth of the coaching we are able to offer our players.

We are fortunate to be able to call upon the services of two highly qualified coaches to help develop the technical ability of our players. Nick Torpey and Will Letts have been retained to do 6 coaching sessions with each of our squads during the season focussing on out-field skills. In addition Jason Hughes and Steve Hurd, both BBFC Managers and former goalkeepers, have offered to run coaching sessions specifically for our keepers.

But it is our Team Managers who are with their players every single week of the season and in order to make a sustainable impact on the standards and consistency of coaching we also need to better support them.

Nick, Will, Steve and Jason will be running coaching sessions specifically for the Managers to assist with thoughts and ideas about how best to develop the technical skills of their players. And there will also be tactical coaching sessions for Managers with Nick and Steve. When one considers that during a match any player is only likely to be in possession of the ball for a maximum of 2 minutes, what they are doing when they do not have the ball is quite important!

And from this season we will also be giving players in the U15 and U16 age groups the opportunity to have a go at coaching. Those interested can help Managers in younger age groups with training sessions and also do some sessions with Nick and Will. If after a period of time they are enjoying it and want to continue the club will pay for them to get their FA Level 1 qualifications. For the club this will enable us to increase the number of qualified coaches we have, providing valuable support for Managers and enabling players to benefit from more dedicated coaching time. For the young coaches themselves, who knows, maybe a home-grown AVB or Jose Mourinho is already moving through the ranks of BBFC!

EVENTS

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE. Fiona Rabbetts and the Events Team continue to do a great job revamping the club's events and after a one year sabbatical the BBFC Annual Dinner Dance returns to the calendar. This will take place at Denbies Vineyard on November 26th and is the event of the year just for parents – it is not profit making and there will be no raffles, auctions, or long speeches – just eat, drink and be merry! There will be an opportunity to strut your funky stuff until the wee hours and we are hoping to re-instate the

'Brockham Bus'. Everyone will receive a personal invitation plus menu choice slip through the post very shortly. If you are bringing guests, please photocopy the slips for each extra person and enclose the correct payment etc... Tables are a maximum of ten. If you have any queries don't hesitate to contact Fiona Rabbetts via email on fee.rabs@btinternet.com or via mobile on 07976 365352.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2012:

Race Night – tbc, probably January
Monday 7th May – Fun Day 5-a-side tournament
Saturday 19th May or Sunday 20th May tbc – Badgers Awards afternoon
Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June – Badgers World Cup 6-a-side tournament
Monday 9th July - AGM

SITUATIONS VACANT

WEB-SITE. We need someone to look after the BBFC website. At this time the job is management rather than development and



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mainly involves ensuring information on our website is regularly updated. It would be great if one of our teenage members with an interest in websites and technology 'stuff' was willing to take this on.

SPONSORSHIP. It is important we are fully funded so we can continue to develop the club whilst keeping membership fees as low as possible. There are many sources of sponsorship and grants available for an organisation such as ours and we have a lot of ideas about sponsorship packages. But we need someone, or a small team of maybe 2 or 3 people, who are willing to focus on this and help us take advantage of opportunities that are out there.

WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. This is the major fund raising event in the Badgers calendar, raising £15,000 last year, and it is important that it continues. Now Jane Mahony has stepped down we need someone to take up the role of Tournament Director. It is a lot of work, but there are a team of people who help put this event together; we just need someone to lead and co-ordinate the team. Without a Director it is unlikely there will be a World Cup 2012.

NEWSLETTER. We need someone to edit and develop the format of this newsletter. Maybe one of our teenage members who have some interest in this sort of thing would be interested to take this on.

Anyone interested in getting involved in any of the above please contact Simon Haines by e-mail at simon.bbfcc@gmail.com. But worth pointing out that the salary and benefits packages on offer are frankly pitiful!

OTHER NEWS

The annual Luke Holland Memorial game between Brockham and Ockley U16s took place under floodlights at Dorking FC on the 4th September. The game was a closely fought encounter that ended in a 0-0 draw and we raised £722 for Surrey Air Ambulance. A big thank you from Neil and Sally Holland to all those who were able to support this event.

Ex Badger Greg Cackett recently took part in the World Championship trials in the 100m sprint event and reached the semi-finals. He only decided to take up sprinting seriously about 12 months ago during which time he has been coached by Margot Wells, wife of 100m gold medallist Alan Wells. Whilst he was initially aiming for the 2016 Olympics training has been going so well he has taken a year out of Uni to go for London 2012. Best of luck Greg.

The Brockham Bonfire will soon be with us again and as is now tradition BBFC have been asked to help clear up the Green and the Firework field after the event. We are of course

pleased to help support an event which raises a lot of money for good causes, but we also receive a donation for our efforts. Last year that was £500 which in 'Badgers terms' pays for most of a kit for one of our teams. And the more people we have helping the quicker the job gets done. Further details will be sent out closer to the time.

The relationship between BBFC and Dorking FC continues to develop under the watchful eye of Bryan Bletso. Simon Coffey (BBFC U16A Manager) is running the Dorking U18 team along with Gordon Walker (BBFC U17 Girls Manager) and Will Letts while Dorking's first team coaches are now Steve Hurd and Nick Torpey (lots of familiar names there!). There are also discussions on-going with the Brockham Senior sides, all of which it is hoped will provide multiple options for boys when they leave the Badgers to continue their footballing careers, as well as strengthen all teams involved. A number of former Badgers players are already in the Dorking first team squad so it's looking good so far.

A Badgers Day at Dorking FC is also being planned. All Badgers players will be able to get into a Dorking home game and get drinks and chocolate - all for free! Further information will be sent out when a date for this has been set.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The FA actively encourages the taking of appropriate images of children in football by parents, carers, coaches, spectators, players and local media. It is not an offence to take appropriate photographs in a public place even if asked not to do so, and no one has the right to decide who can and cannot take images on public land.

As a club BBFC takes the protection of children who are under our supervision very seriously. Whilst it is acknowledged that the majority of images are taken in good faith we must still remain vigilant and if any Manager has serious concerns about a possible child protection issue relating to the recording of images i.e. where they believe that someone may be acting unlawfully or putting a child at risk, they will call the Police as has been advised by the FA.

If you are planning on taking pictures of BBFC boys or girls playing football it would be a great help if you could mention it to the relevant Manager, just as a courtesy.

Also, if for any reason you do not wish your child to be photographed, and there are any number of good reasons why that might be the case, can you make sure the Manager of your team is aware so they can make sure your wishes are respected.

TRAINING FACILITIES

We are quite close to an agreement with MVDC that will secure pitches for BBFC to

play on for a very long time. This will be an important step forward for the club and as soon as the deal is signed and legally binding we will let everyone know.

The next major project is training facilities. Whilst we have the floodlit training pitch on the Big Field this is not ideal and we would like one day to be able to provide an all-weather surface training facility. Funding required for such a project would be substantial, but the bigger problem is finding a piece of land big enough to take an all-weather surface roughly the size of an 11-a-side football pitch. If you can think of, or hear of, somewhere that might be suitable please let us know.

That's it for the first issue of the Badgers Bulletin. We hope you found it informative. If you have any thoughts or interesting content for future issues please let us know by e-mailing simon.bbfcc@gmail.com.

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