



STOWUPLAND FALCONS FC

VILLAGE HALL AGM REPORT 2024

Stowupland Falcons Football Club is a grassroots club run by local volunteers with an aim to be able to provide football at all grassroots levels to the local community in and around Stowupland. The club currently has 24 teams, approximately 300 players, ranging from U7's to Veterans of both male and female, participating in Saturday and Sunday leagues over the 2023 to 2024 season. We currently do not own any of the facilities we use and rely upon facilities and land provided by Stowupland High School, the Village Hall and Parish council. We would like to say thank you for your continued generosity and support in allowing us to use your facilities and land to enable our members to continue playing football.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council for approving CIL funding to support the purchase of ten sets of goalposts of various sizes, which will allow us to replace all our current goals with portable wheeled goalpost allowing for more flexibility in location of pitches and help support our H&S plan for teams setting up and moving goalposts around the field, Thank you!

Our Saturday morning club, both boys and girls, continues to be ever popular, especially now the new housing developments are populated and more younger families move into the community. Free coaching sessions are provided by our FA qualified coaches to boys 4 to 7 years old and girls 4 to 10 years old with upwards of 50 children registered and attending weekly. We affiliated our girls Saturday morning club with the FA sponsored Wildcats programme at the start of this season opening up more avenues in our push by the club to promote female football and the future looks promising for the club's continued development of female football within the local community. We formed two U7's mixed squads of 10 players each, from last year's Saturday morning club, who still under the guidance of the Saturday morning club, have taken part in the counties U7's tournaments and train as individual teams in preparation for next season.

The youth boys' section has 12 teams from U8's to U17's taking part in the 2022 to 2024 season. The U8's to U11's teams compete in non-competitive leagues, which means their results are not published and teams are not placed in a league table. The focus is on developing their football skills and allowing inclusivity to all no matter what their level and abilities are. This is an important part of the FA's and SFFC philosophy in allowing inclusivity to all who wish to take part in our game. All our teams have made huge steps in their development, producing some excellent individual and team performances throughout the season with the future looking very promising for the player development of the club.

From U11's to U17's all leagues are competitive with each team being positioned in their league dependent on results, with promotion and relegation occurring. This has been a very competitive season for all our competitive youth teams, with two of our teams, U12 Blues and U16's both playing an age group up. Due to the prolonged and unprecedented wet weather a number of games have had to be postponed with all teams having to extend their season into May. This has been a very competitive season with a number of teams contending for a finishing position in the top half of their respective tables and a number hoping to finish in the top three. Unfortunately, we will be losing our current U13's at the end of the season as a number of players are moving on to play Eastern Junior Alliance football. This is the last season for our current U17's, who finish youth football with a number of the players moving on to play adult football for the club next season. We would like to thank both coaches, Clive Maskall and Martin Flack, who have given up so much of their own time over the last nine years to allow our children to play football.

This season we managed to create two new girl's teams increasing the number of girls/women's teams in the club to six. They have all had a great season so far, especially our Women's team, who after last year's success in winning the Suffolk Girl's and Women's Premier league are still in contention to regain their title and have gone one step further and reached the Final of the Suffolk Women's Cup and will face AFC Sudbury at Portman Road, home of Ipswich Town on the 21st May. We wish our women's team the best of luck and plan on taking a substantial number of the club's members and parents to Portman Road to help cheer them on. We will continue to develop female football within the club and will be looking at forming two new girl's teams, U9 and U10 at the start of next season, put together from girls from our Saturday morning Wildcats club. This would mean we have seven youth girl's teams and one women's team for next season, doubling our numbers from two seasons ago.

We started the season with 4 adult male teams, but due to insufficient numbers we had to fold our A-Team halfway through the season. The reserve and Sunday men's team are competing competitively and are currently sitting in the top half of their leagues with the reserves in contention for promotion. Our first team, who secured promotion into the Suffolk senior league last season, have been competitive through out the season so far and currently sit 7th in the league and are looking to secure their position to compete in the senior league again next season.

The club has continued to participate in the FA club development programme, the club has been receiving the personal support of our own dedicated Club FA Consultant for the two seasons. This covers practical support, including club's finances, governance, coaching, safeguarding, facilities, volunteers, marketing and communications. We also receive access to a complete range of digital support, including bespoke webinars and podcasts, and the Club House, the FA's online community. With this guidance we continue to implement, amend and develop our strategic plan helping us to provide the club with a sound and sustainable structure to guide our development and ambitions for the future both on and off the pitch.

Our club focus is to continue to progress and develop the club, both on and off the field. On the field we are looking at developing further our ability to offer girls/women's football and the development

of an integrated coaching programme to help develop and improve further, the coaching skills of the volunteer coaches within the club. We continue to discuss the opportunity of developing a 3G facility with Stowupland High School and fully support the Village Hall in their future plans to redevelop facilities for all users.

The club currently has 74 volunteers supporting the running of the club from team coaches, welfare and safeguarding officers to kit and equipment procurement. These volunteers provided over 13,000 volunteer hours last year allowing us to deliver the opportunity of playing football within our community, ensuring that community spirit is maintained and grown. The net value to our community these volunteers provide in monetary terms, would be around £130,000 per year. This figure does not include the mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits having the opportunity to play a team sport such as football provides to the community, which is priceless.

Finally, the club committee has seen a number of changes of personnel over the season and we have lost the services of a number of long serving volunteers who over their many years of volunteering have help develop and deliver the successful club we are today. As a club we would like to say a huge thank you to Pete Mayhew (Chair), Julie Eves (Secretary) and Morcos Toffanello (Football Development) for their combined over 45 years of service, commitment and dedication to Stowupland Falcons Football Club.

Thank you.

Darren White

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SFFC Committee Member