

Chesterton Football Club

This year has been a good year for the club with twelve teams running throughout four different leagues from U6 through to Men's and Veterans.

I am delighted to say that the club is heading for more success this year with our U12's winning the Witney & District Youth League. The U11 Rangers have reached a UEFA Witney & District league cup final and the Ladies U18 team the Oxfordshire Youth Girls League Cup Final. We are hopeful the ladies will be moving to women's football next season which will be a first for our club and the village. Congratulations to all those successes, here is hoping that more is to come in the not too distant future.

The football season, which normally ends in April, now runs in to May with league and cup games completed. Thankfully only a handful of games have had to be cancelled due to weather this winter. Summer tournaments then run through from May to the start of the new season in September. Football is a year event these days.

The club has recently gone through a tough accreditation process with the FA who look at depth into operating procedures. We focused on a number of key issues, including coach training and qualifications, best practice, safeguarding children & vulnerable adults, risk assessments and a five-year development plan. Our intention is to do everything we can to look after the young in our care and to help grow the game through sustainability. I am pleased to say that Chesterton Football Club have been awarded a 3 Star rating by the FA, which put Chesterton in the top five hundred clubs in the country. What a great achievement for a village club on the outskirts of Bicester! My thanks go to the club committee that has made this happen.

Looking forward we have recruited an U6 team for next season. A further team wants to transfer across from Bicester and we have funding to run a Wildcats Centre for girls aged 5-11. The future is extremely bright, and I thank everyone from the village for their continued support. I would ask for the village support to our efforts in seeking additional playing field space in future.

I would finally like to thank the Parish Council for their support over many years. I would particularly like to extend those remarks to Phillip Clark and Fiona Rowe who have been magnificent, always fully supportive, understanding and accommodating. I know they will be standing down at the next Parish Council AGM, the village is a much better place for all their hard work and Chesterton Football Club thanks them sincerely for everything they have done.

Thank you.

Steve Honey
Chair & Secretary
Chesterton Football Club