



NAVY & SCARLET NEWS

AUTUMN / WINTER **2009-10**

Hello everyone and welcome to a new decade!!

We've had an enforced Christmas break this year, due to the extraordinary weather, but we should hopefully soon be back to normal soon.

Before Christmas, I attempted to get around and see as many of our teams as possible, and can report that each and every team and their players have improved, a testament to the coaches and the players themselves, and a sign that the club is progressing nicely.

The Irchester Rec venue has proved popular after some reservations, and we now have five teams playing there on a Saturday morning. It was great to see over half the players there wearing the Navy and Scarlet. The improvement in the standard of play is probably the most marked in the U7 & U8 age groups, and they are now realising that they are part of a team and that everyone has a part to play. Our teams are now drawing admiring glances from other teams' coaches.

Off the pitch, we now have thirteen teams, including the Vets, and require a complimentary system of administration to run the club to the required Charter Status standard. We now face a situation where we have more to do, with less people to do it, and our Charter Standard needs to be renewed in May.

Both Sue Monaghan, our Financial Director and Rachel Woods, our Child Welfare Director, have informed the board that they wish to relinquish their positions with immediate effect after a number of years of excellent service. Being the sort of people they are, they are phasing themselves out gradually rather than an abrupt departure, but we as a club need to respect their wishes and find replacements immediately. I realise that just the title alone can be scary, so we'll take these positions off the board and re-designate them as Treasurer and Child Welfare Officer.

Ian Hopper has stepped up to the plate as CWO, and his professional experience with the NSPCC will be invaluable. Steve Thomas has expressed an interest in the Treasurer role, and his accountancy experience will be invaluable. However, he is already a coach, and we need someone on site in the Green Room, perhaps as an assistant treasurer.??

As important as Sue and Rachel's roles are, of equal importance, is their presence in the Green Room. They are the "public face" of the club, two attractive, smiling faces collecting subs, serving hot drinks, answering questions, radiating a welcoming atmosphere for which the club has become known. Without them, the Green Room is just an equipment shed, and the coaches will have to collect their own team's subs, when they should be **purely** coaching **your** children. Consequently, this important aspect of the ladies' roles needs to be addressed and we need replacements on a Saturday morning. As we now have two sites, I cannot always be there.

This brings me to another point. Although Martin Atkinson and I launched the club, it is not OURS, it belongs to the club's members, YOU. If you want your child's club to progress and not stagnate and die, then there needs to be an injection of new blood rather than everything being left to the same (very) few jaded individuals. The club can only function, continue to grow and offer better facilities for your player's footballing experience at South Rushden, if we have a steady influx of volunteers and behind-the-scenes effort. The coaches already do a magnificent job, giving up huge chunks of their weekend for the benefit of the club and its players, so now we need a bit of help from **YOU** the parents.



Meanwhile, at South End, I've tidied the back of the sheds and done my best with the interior, however we need to replace the floors in both sides, as they have collapsed. The Green Room ceiling needs some attention as well, but having neither the time nor the expertise to do so; it remains on the verge of collapse. The club would be grateful if anyone with the relevant experience and know-how (or relevant contacts) could come forward to alleviate the problem please, before it's too late.

We have a new site manager at Southend, Mr. David Huck, who is broadly supportive of what we are trying to achieve. We must, of course, be good neighbours, and so if we can clear away our mud, and not park on the grass by the exit, he should remain a happy Yorkshireman. One of his new innovations is to open both gates and use the in and out gates as they would be used in school time. After my latest perennial rant about the mud, I am pleased to report that there has been a marked improvement, but there are still some who insist wearing their boots across the playground to the car and "banging" them on the path or by their car.

Quite inexplicable really.



Concerning our long term aims for the club, myself and Mr Cockings have been reminding our elected representatives on the Rushden Town Council about the pressing need for sports facilities. Luckily, it came at a time when such matters were being investigated at a public Town Council meeting, to which we were invited. The proposition to explore green areas of the town that could be used for sports/leisure facilities and to make a concerted effort to improve the town's shortfall, were unanimously approved by the vote.

In effect, the building of new sports facilities would be determined by the Northamptonshire County, and East Northants District Councils who would supply only part of the funds needed. The remainder would be provided by various sporting grants and club fundraising.

For this project to succeed, we would need the input of not only other local football clubs, but the town's other sports clubs too, hence the attendance at the meeting of representatives of Rushden's cricket and rugby clubs. It needs to be demonstrated that the town as a whole, and all its various sporting organisations would use the facility should it be built. Logically, we have to be involved, as we could not hope to instigate such facilities on our own, so our club aim has now, in effect, become a town-wide aspiration. The Northants Football Association is fully behind the move, Rushden being one of the 72 areas identified in a recent NFA audit as being earmarked for improved sports facilities. These are very early days, but at least there is the will in influential places to see a much needed facility come to fruition.

Normally, the club chairperson would be getting involved in this, but as we don't have one, it falls to me to carry the flag. This is another reason why I am appealing to the club members to get involved and take some of the more routine, but nonetheless important tasks that are involved in running a growing junior football club from my hands. I simply cannot do it all.



And so to club commerce.....

Don't forget that we have a club web shop which benefits your club, and your player, with every sale.

<http://buy.at/southernrushdenjfc>

Even more top retailer's official sites this year, safe, secure, no extra cost, just a few clicks in the comfort of your own home, you get your goods in a few days and the retailer pays us the commission. Easy.

If we are to renovate the Green Room and equipment sheds we will need funding, and whilst the webshop helps, someone with a knack for fundraising could bring in some serious money. It is also one of the reasons we became a Community Interest Company, the access to more avenues of funding for community purposes. I'd do it myself, but, y'know, one pair of hands and all that.

AND FINALLY...

Many congratulations to Neill Pitfield and Chris Payne and their U11s Rebels squad for reaching the U11s League Cup Semi Finals. They beat previously unbeaten Corby Kingswood White 2-1, after coming from behind to a goal after two minutes. The lads showed great character to come back, and allied to some great passing football scored the winner with only minutes left. Well done everyone. Your club is proud.



Daryl De Fault Managing Director

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The Navy & Scarlet

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