

1 May 2024

Annual Report for Somersham F.C.

The 2023/24 season will go down as one of the most successful in the club's history with all four teams exceeding expectations.

The under 13s team (the Dukes) has built on the momentum of the last two years and seen some fantastic results. At the time of writing, the team has won 10 games to secure at least a third place finish in the league. A big thank you goes to Steve and Alex for all their hard work behind the scenes. The team is now well positioned to move into the under 14s league next season.

The men's first team has also continued to build on the momentum of last season. The team is currently 5th in division 1 of the SIL league, but with games in hand on those above, promotion to the senior league is still on the cards. This would be a first for the club and see the club punching well above its weight in terms of size. Promotion to the senior league will bring a new set of challenges as we strive to meet the facility and ground requirements to play football at this level. The team has also been on a good cup run, reaching the semi-finals of both the Junior and Morrisons Freight cups.

The men's reserve team has had a fantastic season under the stewardship of Clive Halls. The team has secured promotion out of division 6 of the SIL league with three games to go. The team has also had a good cup run, getting to the semi-finals of the Junior Reserve cup.

The men's veterans team (over 35s) has won back to back promotions for the last three seasons. Now playing in division 2, some (myself included) thought it might be a step too far for the gang of old timers but the team has held its own, competing with the likes of Walsham-le-Willows and Hadleigh. The Vets team has similarly had a good cup run, reaching the final of the Norfolk & Suffolk Veterans Shield. The team couldn't quite go all the way, losing 2-0 to Foxhall Town F.C. of the premier division in the final.

It's been a busy season off the pitch too. John Hutchinson has stepped down as club chairman due to work commitments. We thank John for his significant contribution to the club over the last 3 and a half years and are pleased that he has agreed to remain on the committee. Stepping into John's shoes is Dan English who has been at the club for the last 25 years. We've also had a change of first team managers, with Michael Felgate stepping down. Felly has established the team in division 1 and it's thanks to his dedication and hard work behind the scenes that the team is knocking on the door of the senior division for the last two seasons. Felly is a natural and it wouldn't be a surprise to see him managing at a higher level in the future. We thank him for his contribution to the club over the last 6 years and wish him all the best. We are very pleased to have Clive pick up the reins as first team manager following the excellent job he has done with the reserve team. We look forward to seeing him close the season as manager of both the first and reserve teams, and to what he can do as first team manager next season.

A huge thank you goes out to those that give up their time to volunteer at the club. We are always on the hunt for new committee members so please do get in touch if you are interested in joining the team! We thank the Parish Council for the support it gives the club by paying for pitch cutting and maintenance. It makes such a difference to the quality of the playing surface.

The Dukes play on Saturday mornings at 10.30. The men's first and reserve teams play on Saturday afternoons from 2.30pm and the veterans play every 3 weeks on a Sunday afternoon. Please do come along and watch.

Darren Luck
Treasurer
Somersham F.C.