



# Annual General Meeting 2023

At The Hare & Hounds, Claygate, Mon 26th June.

## 1. Attendees and Apologies

Tony Shearman, Michael Smith, Mike Cross, Kevin Warner, Nick Stafford, Chris Napper, Steve Preston, Gurpreet Tulsi, Nick Ford, Paris McAuliffe, Nigel Wilkinson, Nigel Ashton, Dave McDonnell, Tim Carswell, Dave Fleming, Eamon Mullins, James Flower, Ross Taylor, Jon Harding, Mike Payten, Chris Price, Jon Allen, James Thornton, Mark Hays, Nick Bryan, Jeremy Lamb, Alex Smith

Apologies : Val and Cat Wotton, James Scallan, Enrico Sorbello

## 2. Minutes 2022 AGM

Nick Ford proposed agreement. Nick Stafford seconder.

## 3. Chairman's Report - Tony Shearman

- Several challenges due to weather resulting in numerous pitch inspections.
- No reports throughout the season of any abuse of referees by CRFC players. The FA will deduct points and ban any teams who do not comply next season.
- There were trophy successes for some teams this season.
- The U9 and U10 were both cup finalists, U12 Eagles were league runners up and cup winners, U15 Colts were league runners up, U12 Foleys were County Cup Final runners up, and Vets Hares won their first ever trophy as league winners.
- The club is financially sound. There will be some slight increases to registration fees to reflect inevitable cost increases due to the current economic climate. CRFC are still the cheapest club in Surrey by some distance.
- Well done to Nick Ford for putting together another successful Presentation Day although only a third of CRFC teams attended and were mainly from the younger teams. May be scope to review the format to encourage older teams to attend.
- The partnership with Platform Sports Coaching continues to grow year on year and hopefully this will continue.
- The club now have a record number of girls teams which now form over 25% of club. This started before the popularity of girls football increased in recent years.
- We will be losing the three U18 teams from last season and wish the players and coaches well for the future.

- We will be affiliating several new teams including a number of girls sides.
- The training schedule is still a work-in-progress exercise. The aim is to make better use of the 3G pitch at Esher College.
- The form for equipment requests will be sent out soon and dealt with by Equipment Manager Eamonn Mullins. A date for collection of equipment will be communicated in due course. There will be a clear-out of the storage crate on Claygate Rec and a review on returned items.
- Please communicate to your parent group that new kit should be ordered from MG Sports as soon as possible as the lead times can be 3 weeks or more.
- Thanks to Nick Stafford for sponsoring CRFC (he manages a CRFC team too) at £1500 per season.
- The club sends its condolences to the family of former CRFC player Suleman Dawood whom, along with his father, tragically died in the recent Titan submersible accident. Our thoughts are with them.

#### **4. Vice Chairman's Report – Michael Smith**

I am very proud to have been voted into the role of Vice Chair last June and hopefully been able to add value, provide support and direction to the committee and wider club.

Publishing the inaugural club handbook, has been a fantastic achievement, which will continue to evolve and I hope all of you have familiarised yourselves with it and found it useful.

As the first iteration, if anyone does have any further ideas or feedback on how we can improve it please do let me know. For those that haven't had the opportunity to peruse, it can be found on our website and I would ask that it is reshared with your respective teams and parents ahead of the upcoming season.

The introduction of the newly designed CRFC tops and jackets to all our coaches has proved a great success and now gives us greater recognition and representation on the touchline as well as looking very smart. This initiative will continue as new coaches join the club and for me this also acts as a small token of thanks for the huge efforts all our volunteer coaches make.

Another (near) success is the very time consuming new player enquiries and applications process. Being a very popular club we receive many new player applications and enquiries each month, which heightens in April and May as the season ends. To that end we receive upwards of a dozen enquiries per week during this period.

Whilst not yet quite complete, reviewing, streamlining and automating this process will not only help the committee to manage these enquiries better, but also support coaches when requiring new players as teams grow and natural attrition through all age groups occurs. This initial update will be completed ahead of next season with a more automated version coming soon after. I will look to share an update with coaches very soon.

So to conclude, I am sure we will all pass on our own personal thanks to Tony, but on behalf of the committee, coaches, sponsors, parents and players I'd like to pass on a huge thank you for the past 11 years of commitment, loyalty and hard work.

Taking on the mammoth task of Chair for a club of this size for over decade, from where it was, to where it is now, as well as navigating us all through the challenges of Covid is no mean feat.

Please therefore join me in a round of applause for Tony Shearman.

## **5. Secretary's Report – Mike Cross**

Thanks to Tony for all his help and hard work over the years taking the club to a fantastic place over his tenure.

Player registrations – the system is not ready yet, please wait until notification is sent. All registrations are done via the Club Portal. For existing players it should be an easy process. New player photos will be needed if the existing photo is over 2 years old. Guidelines will be sent when the system is ready. Consent should be carried over.

Venues – using Claygate Rec (same); Esher College (add 5 and 7 a side pitch) plus catering trial; West End (lose 11 a side, add 9 a side); Old Tiffs. Exploring Goals Tolworth.

Referees – more club refs required. A mini referee course was held last year and was well attended but follow through from the course was not great.

Leagues – teams will be entered into the SYL, SPL and SCWGL for next season. The SPL is a more relaxed league and may be suitable for those struggling in the SYL.

Registration fees – despite a healthy bank balance inflationary pressure is causing us to be cautious due to expected increases in costs of equipment, pitch fees, venue hire, pitch markings, referee fees, etc. Therefore fees will be increased as follows :

5v5 (boys)            £140 to £150

7v7 (boys)            £150 to £160

9v9 (boys)            £160 to £170

11v11 (boys)        £170 to £180

The initial fee reduction to build the girls section has been successful in attracting and retaining players and now is the time to start to gradually bring this in line with the rest of the club. All girls fees will be increased from £120 to £140.

PSC fees (when teams use PSC training slot) increased from £55 to £65

## **6. Development Programmes – Nick Ford**

- PSC now allow matches to be played every other week within the coaching sessions.
- There are now around 200 3-10 year old children with PSC and spaces are continually opened up by moving players to CRFC junior teams.
- At Hinchley Wood there are Kickers sessions for 3-5 year olds.
- The girls programme continues to progress.
- FA plan within two years to ensure U6-U8 teams play matches on half a 5v5 pitch with mini goals at each end.
- Thanks to outgoing chairman Tony Shearman for all his support.

## **7. Football For All Project – Ross Taylor**

- CRFC are there to benefit community.
- At present there is little support for kids with a limited range of abilities.
- Ross has recently attended an FA Football for All course.
- There will be a mail drop approach to target schools, physios, and community centres in the area.
- The club will connect with Walton FC who arrange an all-abilities event each month.
- Looking to plan for end of year with regard to getting an initial group of players together.
- If anyone has thoughts or useful connections please contact Ross.

## 8. Vets Teams – Chris Price

2022/23 has been the most successful ever since the Vets section of the club was founded over a decade ago, and has seen us grow into one of, if not the biggest Vets teams in the county, with circa 90 members playing regular football.

As far as the individual teams' seasons went...

**The Hares** lead by Jon Allen earned a promotion and a first ever trophy for the Vets section of the club, by winning the WLVFL Div. One by 10pts. Over the course of the 16-match season the Hares only dropped 6 pts, scored 62 goals, and finishing with a +40-goal difference.

**The Hounds** also had their most successful season since their founding; accumulating more points, more wins, and scoring more goals than all their previous seasons combined. Next season they will kick on again when Jon Harding takes the helm, bringing his experience as a manager at youth level and as the Hares assistant to the top job in the Hounds.

**Tertia** finished runner up in their league, missing out on the big prize with a final day with defeat to Old Meadonians (who also play in the football in Div. Two of the WLVFL). Tertia will also see a change in manager next season; Mike Payten is stepping down and I'd like to put on record how grateful we are to Mike for all he has done to get Tertia off the ground. Scott Gordon and Dean Brooke are replacing him and will also be doing their best impression of Houllier and Evans (but hopefully with more success).

**Strollers** became the fourth team in the "mature" section of the club as our Super Vets (50+) side officially played their first matches under the stewardship of Dave Sadler.

And finally, **Casuals** became the fifth team when they played their first matches in the latter part of the season with Elliot Dix as manager.

Looking to next season, we will have teams challenging for success in the WLVFL, the Hares in the Prem and Hounds looking to climb out of Div. Three. Strollers will join the Super Vets section of the league, and Tertia and Casuals will continue to provide regular competitive football for as many players as possible.

Finally, we are looking to strengthen across all teams, so if you, or someone you know wants to play Vets or Super Vets football, then let's have a chat.

## 9. IT & Communications – Chris Napper

- There were 8,000 hits on website with 40% of traffic being directed from Google. The highest number of referrals came from Platform Sports Coaching.
- Overall there were 150 requests from players wishing to join the club.

- An analysis of matches submitted on vidiprinter this season shows a total of 780 games were played. CRFC teams scored 2,187 goals and conceded 2,309. There were 320 wins, 105 draws and 354 defeats. A 41% win ratio. The age groups with the highest win ratio were the U8s and U12s.
- The payment system for subscription fees will be up and running at a date soon to be confirmed, as will the area for equipment requests.
- Interactive online guides will be developed later this year.

#### **10. Social Media - Ross**

- To celebrate the successes of CRFC within the community, coaches need to share achievements with Ross and he can post these on Facebook, Instagram etc

#### **11. Welfare and Certifications – Kevin Warner**

- All coaches and parent helpers must have an in-date DBS check in place. These last for 3 years after which they need to be renewed.
- All teams must have at least one coach who has taken the FA Introduction to Coaching Football course.
- All coaches must take the mandatory online Safeguarding course. These last for 2 years after which time they must be re-certified.
- All teams must have at least one qualified First Aider. This module as well as Safeguarding are also included in the above coaching course.
- I maintain a database of all coaches, helpers and assistants. Please advise me each time there is a personnel change. I also keep track of everyone's DBS, Safeguarding and First Aid certifications and will contact the relevant people as and when their certifications are close to expiring.
- We cannot affiliate any teams unless all the certification requirements detailed above are in place.

#### **12. Treasurer Report**

- Tony Shearman has audited the accounts and can confirm they are accurate.
- 2022/23 accounts have been approved. Jon Allen – Proposer, Chris Napper – Secunder.

#### **13. Awards**

- Mitch Sutherland, Bede Feltham, Conor Maguire, Kevin Madden for long service - Outgoing U18 teams.
- Mark Hays – special award for the first CRFC person to coach the same team from U6 through to U18.
- Nick Bryan - Team / Manager of the Year –U12 Eagles
- Mike Payten - Clubman / Volunteer of the Year Award.

This awards goes to someone who has been a driving force behind the growth of the Vets club for the last few seasons, which has seen the club grow from one team, that often struggled to field a starting eleven, to now having more than 90 registered members aged between 35 and 66!

As a 40+ age club, recently setting up a third team, to allow 35+ year olds to play has been key to this growth and succession planning. This season also saw the Vets trial a

50+ super vets team as well as fielding a fifth causals team for a number of games to accommodate the growing numbers. For the 2023/24 season the Super Vets will make their first foray into league football.

Due to this growth, the Vets now have a fully functioning committee that helps with the running of the club, who this person is also fundamental too and heavily involved with many aspects of the day to day running of a growing club.

This person has been key to the clubs growth, coordinating player recruitment, setting up and managing a local new league, creating a club newsletter, fulfilling many administrative duties and delivering social media updates as well as running one of the teams - a credit to not only the Vets but the wider club and well appreciated by many of the other Vets teams in the local area.

I am very happy to therefore award Clubman of the Year to Mike Payten.

- Founders Cup - donated by 1966 squad.

The Founders Cup is a trophy that was donated to us by the original 1966 team and is awarded each season to someone who has made a significant contribution to the club.

Sadly, our guests, two of the original founding members are no longer able to attend this evening but James Theobald, founding member and the first ever Chair of Claygate Royals has asked for the following to be read:

“As much as I would have liked to have attended, we are away, and I’m sorry that at late notice our representing founding members have been unable to make this evenings AGM to present The Founders Cup.

As the first chairman of Claygate Royals many, many, moons ago, and having discussed it at length with fellow founders including Mike Tate and Geoff Cushing we came to a very easy decision.

We have found this persons enthusiasm and driving force for the club extremely humbling over the years. With others, he has put in a tremendous amount of time in taking the Royals as a club to such a high level. I know we are now not directly involved with the club, but he has always made us feel extremely proud of being part of the Royals and the history that goes with it.

Wishing him all the best for the future and thanks for what he has done for Claygate Royals, this years Founders Cup, without a shadow of a doubt is awarded to Tony Shearman.”

#### **14. Election of the Committee**

The following stood for re-election :

Mike Cross – Secretary

Kevin Warner – Welfare Officer

Tony Shearman stepped down as Chairman

Election of Chairman – one application - Michael Smith

- Nominated - Mike Cross. Secunder – Mike Payten.

Election of Vice Chairman - one application - Chris Napper.

- Proposer – Tony Shearman, Secunder – Alex Smith. Elected

Election of Secretary - Mike Cross

- Proposer - Nick Stafford Proposer, Secunder - Tim Carswell secunder

Election of Welfare Officer – Kevin Warner

- Proposer - Jon Harding Secunder - Chris Price. Re-elected.

Election of Treasurer – one application - Jon Allen

- Proposer – Mike Smith, Secunder - Jon Harding

#### **15. Any Other Business**

None