



Review of the 2023-24 Club Year

Prepared July 2024

Club Committee

- New Committee was appointed for 2024/25 as all of previous members prior to the 2023 AGM either stood down in advance, completed their terms and did not stand again, or resigned within a month of 2023 AGM taking place.
- Those elected were:
 - Barry Simpson
 - Karl Swan
 - Wes Lawrenson
 - Zoe Harrison
 - James Davenport
- Jemma Hall, Michaela Bibby and Andrew Lawrenson have been co-opted on 'in year' to take the current compliment to 8 out of 9 available places.
- The Committee therefore has the following members:
 1. Barry Simpson
 2. Karl Swan
 3. Wes Lawrenson
 4. Zoe Harrison
 5. James Davenport
 6. Jemma Hall
 7. Michaela Bibby
 8. Andrew Lawrenson
 9. Vacant
- As no candidates put themselves forward for election at this 2024 AGM this committee is able to roll on to next year. (As there was no continuity from the last committee, nor willing candidates, the staggering of appointments for continuity has not been deemed necessary but may be problematic next year when all terms will end).

Social Media

- The previous committee members exited without properly handing over access to the Facebook pages. This meant that access has been lost and a new replacement site had to be established. The old site is still visible, and we still get significant queries through it. It still has more followers than the new site. This is frustrating (and was time consuming) and we hope to eventually rectify it.

Club Website

We have updated the rules, policies and procedures on the club website.

This has hopefully helped communication with stakeholders and reduced administration.

Club Teams

A: "Outs"

- At the start of the year, we lost what would have been an Under 14s Team for the season (eventually) to Warton. This situation meant several players were without a team and had to leave the club. A regrettable situation the current committee inherited and were unable to halt.
- We also lost a prospective second U16s team when it was folded over the summer due to a lack of players. Only a couple of players moved into the remaining team.
- At the end of this season, we lost our only U7 team to Warton and the U8 reds folded.
 - The U7s age group team proved problematic throughout the season, and we were unable to expand the age group as we would have liked. The departure of the coaches to Warton has been significantly mitigated and we have established a replacement team already with scope for a second to start in January 2025. Michaela Bibby deserves credit for her efforts in this area.
 - The U8 reds had an unusual situation whereby two of the coaches withdrew support to the team citing changing shift patterns at work. One parent put themselves forward to lead and this was 'rejected' by the parents. As a consequence, several players were moved into the other two remaining teams and unfortunately some left – they appear to have gone to Foxhall.
 - The Under 16s Blues completed their season and will not enter a team into the Under 18s. All were thanked for their time at the club and their manager Lewis Royle was recognised for his sterling service.

B: "Ins"

- We have established an Under 6s for those entering Year 1 in September 2025. We currently have 18 attendees and remain positioned to have at least three teams by September 2024. We may look to play the oldest and strongest in this age group up from January 2025 in the Blackpool League. Strangely there are no girls in the team (or enquired).
- We managed through a difficult legacy in terms of preparing U7s for 2024/25. A prospective manager left at short notice and James Davenport and Jemma Hall's husband Chris have stepped in to ensure there will be at least two teams playing from September 2024.

Demand for KJFC

- It remains the case that KJFC cannot meet local demand. If we were able to take children from a facility and coaching perspective, there is no doubt that the club could in theory double in size in a couple of years. Demand is strongest around Under 9 and Under 10 age groups and tails off generally after Under 12s.
- We have suspended waiting lists – whilst good in theory, there are a number of practical limitations to following. Play Football sessions appear the best mechanism to introduce and trial players and we should seek to employ this going forward.

Success on the pitch

- Despite a rain-soaked season with high levels of postponement and considerable logistic issues– we managed to field 25 league teams with over 330 children participating in regular football activities.

Highlights from the season include:

- U10s Reds – Reached a competition final at Bloomfield Road.
- U13 Reds – Reached a competition final at Bloomfield Road
- U16 Blues – Reached a competition final at Highbury Stadium.

Alas no winners but good effort in a number of quarters.

- The U12 Valkyries were given the inaugural title of 'Team of the Year' for their impressive development and progress over the season.
- Apologies for not having time here to go into greater detail. Clearly overviews were delivered at the Presentation Day.

Estates

1: Coronation Road, Kirkham

- We successfully petitioned Kirkham Council to have full access to the Changing Rooms at Coronation Road with the removal of the 'eye-sore' container from the carpark. We fitted new doors and now utilise one changing room as the club's storeroom and the other as the equipment store for Coronation Road. We thank the

council for this support and place on record our gratitude to the groundsman for his continued support, good humour and efforts throughout the year.

(Pitch Power is discussed later in this document)

2: Bank Lane, Warton

- We remain grateful to BAE Systems Sports and Social for our access to the facility. Specific thanks to Kevin Whitsey (their manager) who is KJFC Alumni for his support. Regrettably access to the 9 a side and 11 a side pitches was restricted towards the end of the season due to a botched grounds maintenance attempt by a contractor organised by another site user. This has been redressed in a lower charge for 2024/25.

3: Weeton

- We thank the Camp's Senior and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation for access. We have established a permanent storage room and now permanently keep a defibrillator there. We hire a portaloos on site for use as a stipulation of hire Greater equipment will be purchased and specifically held there for 2024/25. It is a shame that the building there is in such a poor state for usage.

4: Wesham

- During the year we have tidied out the Pavilion – installing new internal doors and putting in new strip lighting. We have restarted regular discussions with the council over continued lengthy access to this facility and the park which is crucial for our younger age groups. The Committee thanks Wes Lawrenson for his ongoing efforts to improve the pitch quality.

5: AFC Fylde

- We have had a positive working relationship with them throughout the year. We have retained priority booking slots beyond their own needs. Clear that a number of teams from (even from far afield) are utilising and competition will likely increase. We need to maintain our relationship with them and hope that viable alternatives become available to provide a backup.

Pitch Power at Coronation Road

- The previous committee entered into a formal six-year arrangement for year-on-year investment into the pitches and playing fields at Coronation Road. The current committee have spent considerable time looking into this deal and the sliding financial commitments involved across its length.

- We have established that in the later years of the deal that the club would be liable for 100% of the repair and treatment costs as determined by the independent pitch reports and that Kirkham Council have not agreed not have an obligation to contribute or fund. (We have spoken to them and they confirm this).
- The current committee agree that the club spending considerable amounts of money each year (potentially up to £10,000 by year 6) for a facility that the club doesn't own (and actually pays an additional rental charge for each year), is heavily used by the public particularly dog walkers, has encountered significant mole and rabbit issues over the years, and could be used by other teams is neither tenable, viable or sensible. The committee is therefore currently actively working to exit the agreement.

End of Season Events

- We successfully held the 50th celebration at Ribby Hall in June (and thanks again for their generosity in allowing the club to use it for free). A great day with great weather. A big success and thank you to all involved particularly Zoe Harrison. Lesson learnt about the fragility of certain trophy types when choosing next year.
- We marked the 50th Anniversary of the club with a 'family fun day' at Wesham Community Centre. Good weather, good turnout and the Manchester United fans were happy watching them lift the FA Cup on the big screen. Good effort by all involved and shows the potential we would have in terms of fundraising. It seems an annual BBQ will become an annual event on the calendar.

Club Finances

- As outlined in the Club Accounts the club remains in a strong financial position with sufficient reserves held for organisational continuity and emergency scenarios. Having an effective reserve of £30,000 provides ample security and cashflow. The decision to increase membership costs has proved necessary. There is no expectation for any increase for 2024/25.
- We have instigated new accounting practices and adopted SAGE Accounting software.
- I thank Jemma for her incredible contribution and enthusiasm as Treasurer.
- I should mention here that we continue to operate the Club Pays scheme and overall have good monthly receipts. We work to contact and work to support people with outstanding payments – albeit a significantly time consuming one!

Club Welfare

- There has thankfully only been a handful of incidents to deal with during the year. All resolved from the Committee's perspective to a fair, equitable and satisfactory level.

Goalkeeper Training

- We have continued the weekly training on Sunday mornings. The external coach remains popular and well liked. A monthly fee of £10 is charged with the club heavily centrally subsidising the three hour weekly fee.

KJFC Kit Change

- The committee considered the current Nike Academy kits and looked to the market in terms of brands and suppliers. We agreed that the kits by Stanno were more modern looking and comparative price wise. Initial feedback from players, parents and managers has been positive and these will be rolled out over the next two seasons.

Volunteers

- Finish by acknowledging all of our volunteers – you are what make it possible, and you are key parts of local community. There is, and always will be, a myriad of different things that need doing at any given time to enable the club to meet requirements and enable its prosperity.

Forward Look to 2024/25

Quick nod to current/future priorities:

- Relationships with Stakeholders - Town Councils
- Project Home (Two strands – 4G and Grass Pitches)
- Volunteering and Job Actions
- New Club Welfare Officer