

Chiseldon Football Club

In the Football Season that is ending, Chiseldon FC had eight teams across various age groups: U8s, U9s, U11s, U17s, U18s, Senior Saturday, Senior Sunday and Veterans (over 35s). Including coaches, managers, players and volunteers there are more than 100 people regularly involved with football in the village. Many of these are either from the village or its near neighbours, but there are also a number that travel from various areas across the town due to the good reputation the Club has.

The U8s team has been very successful this year winning two trophy events (mini tournaments comprising of 4 teams) – a big achievement, especially considering the team didn't win a game at all last season! The U18s have also been successful by narrowly missing out on winning their league finishing second in addition to being in the cup final to be held at the County Ground. Many the U18s are from the village and have been with the Club since junior school so it is great to see them doing well - hopefully some of them will soon be playing for the senior teams in the next year or two. The senior teams haven't been as successful this season (someone must finish bottom) however all teams have strong numbers which, as parents / uncles etc, is helping to bring the next generation of youngsters into the Club.

Away from the pitch the Club continues to be well governed and has passed the annual 'Charter Standard Healthcheck' (an FA run scheme to ensure quality and safety) therefore has retained its position as a 'Charter Standard Development Club' – a tough accreditation to achieve and keep. Safeguarding and welfare is a strong priority within the Club and all coaches / managers are qualified to at least the FA required standard. We are happy to report that there have been no welfare issues within the Club this, nor previous, years.

Plans are well underway for the new football season that will be starting in September. As of today, signs are looking good for all existing teams to continue running next year (although more players of any age are always welcome) which would be great to see. Due to strong interest, it is also highly likely that a new U7 / U8 team will be created to become the Clubs 9th team overall – a fantastic number for a relatively small village. If you know of any youngsters looking to get into football, please get in touch.

The Club is working with the ever supportive Chiseldon Parish Council to investigate options for improving / developing the playing surfaces at the Recreation Ground which, if achieved, would have a very positive impact on the amount of teams / games that can be held at the Rec. One example of recent support from CPC has been the creation of a new secure storage area at the Rec for Football Club equipment, this has not only given more space for the expanding amount of kit, but also removed the need for equipment to be carried across the, sometimes very busy, car park.

The Clubs committee would like to thank the Parish Council for the ongoing support and understanding that is regularly provided. Running a Football Club with so many teams across a range of age groups presents a few challenges (the adults are worse than the kids!) so the backing of the local community is always welcome and appreciated.

Lastly, the Clubs annual awards and Fun Day is being held at the Rec on Sunday 4th June from midday. The day will consist of a football tournament between the senior sides, presentations, BBQ, raffle bouncy castle, music and various other activities. It would be great if the village could turn out and support the event (which is also the Clubs main fund raiser of the year).

Further information about the Club can be found on www.chiseldonfc.co.uk or feel free to contact myself, Matthew Clarke, via email (Clarke.matthew1@sky.com).