

## **Chiseldon Football Club – June 2018**

Without snow or rain to ruin things, the last two months have been busy with teams catching-up with matches before the end of the season. This has required a lot of mid-week fixtures but each team was able to squeeze in all of its matches and the season has now finished. Overall it has been a good year for the individual teams of the Club on the pitch, and a strong year of growth and fundraising off the pitch.

The senior Sunday team have maintained a brilliant run of form in the second half of the season and ended the year in 2<sup>nd</sup> place of their league. Running a Sunday league team is never an easy task but the management and players have done a great job and promotion to a higher league is a suitable reward. On the opposite side, the senior Saturday team had an alarming drop off in form after Christmas managing to take only 1 point from the last 9 matches. It's hard to explain what happened (nobody is sure) but, despite being in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> position for most of the season, the team were overtaken in the final couple of matches eventually finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> position. Although a disappointing end, the season can be considered a massive success in comparison to last year where the team finished bottom of the league.

The U9s had a very good season with lots of positive results and, more importantly, playing some great football. Each of the players has progressed over the course of the year taking on-board the coaching they have been given. It is this progression which makes the time and effort of coaching a very worthwhile and pleasing activity. The U10s and U12s have both struggled with numbers over the season which has had a direct impact on results. Despite best efforts, attempts to recruit extra numbers have not been successful (being a small village it is hard to attract new players, especially when in competition with other clubs that retain large numbers of players). Unfortunately, both teams are likely to fold over the summer which is a tremendous loss to the Club and the village as a large number of the players are from Chiseldon. It is particularly sad for the U12s as the team has been together for five years with almost all the players being from the same class at the junior school.

Looking ahead to the next football season, because of strong interest, the Club is aiming to create two new development squads for players aged 5-6 and 7-8. Each squad will provide a fun and safe environment for youngsters to learn the game. If you know of anyone of these ages who would like to get into football, please get in touch. The Club will also continue to run adult teams and an u10s team.

Away from the pitch, the Clubs fundraising activities have had another success in the shape of the 'Grand Spring Raffle' which raised over £800. Many local businesses (too many to list individually) kindly donated prizes to the raffle so the Club would like to say a massive thank-you to each, and to everyone that bought a ticket, for the ongoing support. The funds raised really do help the Club continue to provide football for dozens of local people of all ages. The funds raised this year are being invested to improve the facilities at the Recreation Ground to the benefit of all members of the Club whilst also making the wider environment more attractive.