

Hello everyone

I hope this update finds you safe and well.

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to you all for the ongoing support and hard work by you all. I do wish to extend my apologies for the update being sent by email, however, in the current climate and limitations I felt this was the best way to approach this.

Of course, this update doesn't really include anything from the very challenging year we are having, however, it has impacted us in that we have been unable to meet and progress our trust as we would have liked. I do thank you for your patience.

Despite the challenges I'd like to take some time to reflect on what was a very positive 2019 for the trust, none of which would be possible without the help, support and input from you, so thank you.

### **Squad fund**

We all know how important the squad fund is to the club as it supports the securing of and growing players. I am absolutely delighted to say that from a trust perspective, we were able to transfer the brilliant sum of £850 to the squad fund which was hugely appreciated. A massive thanks to Bill Walker who is the brainchild of this scheme. Thank you, Bill.

### **Fridges**

We are well renowned for liking a bit of social activity and we like nothing more than to do it right in the club, via the GD lounge. The running of the bars has proved very successful and it's not just about getting a pint or a wine etc, it's also about the social activity and the camaraderie that comes with it, something which we are all sorely missing this year. In order for the trust to serve its bar customers well, we identified that we need new fridges to keep the beers nice and cold and we went on a mission to purchase not just one fridge, but a double!! All kidding aside, it's through the hard work of each and every one of you that we are able to support fans through service, home and away. Thank you once again.

### **Supporters buses**

We have a very small but even more loyal fan base and as footballing times got tough during 2019, we knew we had to act to try and support the team on the field. With that in mind, the trust agreed to put on buses to ensure that we had fans at away games and the rough cost of this was around £575. The footballing year was tough, but we did manage to pull ourselves out of it and I am 100% confident that having fans shouting and screaming the team on definitely helped.

### **Goals**

With a strong focus on the community and not taking anything away from the community trust we also paid for samba goals for the clubs which are run during school holidays. This

enables kids to come and enjoy a game of football in a safe and secure environment and let's not kid ourselves it's a cheap babysitter service for the parents!!!

### **Buddy club**

This is another venture very close to our hearts and it's really encouraging to hear some of the stories from the buddy club about some of the maintenance they help us with but more importantly how it gives these guys a sense of purpose, a sense of achievement and job satisfaction. Our thank you to the buddy's was to pay for their lunch and two away days, I think we got a real bargain in light of the work they do for us.

### **Match sponsorship**

We've also been very fortunate to be able to sponsor matches if they haven't been sponsored by external sponsors. This has also given us the chance to say thanks to our own trust members who've supported the trust in one way or another. Of course, the highlight of the boardroom is me trying to do a measure from the optics. Despite many hours of coaching from the chairman and barman, I just can't do it so next time you're in the boardroom just ask for a beer please. Only kidding!

### **Table for annual dinner**

Finally, the table we sponsor for our annual dinner is a critical piece as it ploughs much needed money back into the club, but it also gives us the chance to treat people to a nice meal and a night out (who wouldn't kill for that right now?) but it's also our way again of saying thank you.

Having read my notes again I feel that I have used thank you a lot, however, I think I've used it appropriately so. The commitment and selfless approaches I witness is unbelievable and so I am going to say thank you again, so thank you.

I hope you share my joy at what we have achieved for such a small trust team and what incredible contributions we have been able to make to the club and help others support us too.

It would be very remiss of me not to mention that for the first 6 months of this year, I have been unwell and still in my recovery. I will use the next couple of months to chart the progress of my recovery and determine if I will still be in a position to put myself forward for re-election as chairperson of the trust.

Thanks once again.