

## 2024 Annual Report – Willingham Wolves Football Club

On behalf of Willingham Wolves FC can I firstly thank Willingham Parish Council for its continued support for the club to be able to provide grassroots football to all children and adults within the village; without your support we believe we would not be in the position we are today.

Currently the club continues to grow, this season we added around 45 new players across all age groups which is pleasing but also adds more challenges as we battle to provide these teams with pitches to play on.

The weather once again played havoc with all the bottom pitches not being in use since October due to flooding, these pitches currently remain out of use until the grass has recovered. The annual issues we face with flooding means that in order for games to be played the club has to hire 3g pitches outside of Willingham, this season in order to fulfil our match obligation we have spent in excess of £1,500 to do this. Winter training has also been affected because we cannot train on the remaining grass pitches because these needed to be protected, other facilities again needed to be hired, these include Willingham Primary School, Over Community Centre, Swavesey VC, Northstowe Secondary College and Western Park which cost the club over £16,000 which we did recoup with applying a subsidised training fee to all players. The overall cost to the club this season in terms of providing the facilities for training and matches exceeded £5,000 which was not budgeted for but due to the success of our annual tournament meant the club could withstand this.

On the pitch we had many successes this season with our u13's reaching a cup final and 3 other teams making it semi-finals but falling at this hurdle. Our men's team recorded a club record winning streak of 22 consecutive matches, they reached 2 semi finals and finished 4<sup>th</sup> in their league. In the Girls section we have 3 teams all competing in leagues, the u11's had a very good first season, our u13's also had a good season finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their league. The ladies team continue to thrive as well, this season they are 1 game away from finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in their league with promotion to division 2 very likely.

This June we again hold our annual tournament, we have over 200 teams entered from all over Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk heading to the recreation ground. This tournament is our biggest fund raiser by far and one of the biggest tournaments in Cambridgeshire.

The club also works closely with Cambridgeshire FA and Football Foundation to seek grants to help us to provide equipment and excellent facilities for all its players. We have been successful with a £66,000 grant for pitch maintenance improvements which we hope to get finalised shortly so we can start work on getting all the pitches ready for the new season.

Next season due to the clubs continued expansion we are using Western Park for all winter training and our senior Colts, Men's and Ladies teams will likely to be playing their games there also. This is not ideal for the club but because of the flooding issues that are likely to happen every year and the lack of additional recreational space this leaves us very little option but to send teams to play outside the village. We know the Parish Council are doing all they can to find additional recreational space not only for the football club but for the benefit of the village.

Our annual accounts are not prepared until 1<sup>st</sup> June, currently the clubs bank balance is £3,500 which is very low but this is due to the additional costs that we incurred for hiring facilities for training and matches.

Jamie  
Secretary  
Willingham Wolves FC