



## **Club committee meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023**

**Time: 20:00pm – 21:45pm**

**Meeting Attendees:** Matt (Club Chairman) / Leon (Club Secretary) / Viktor (Club Welfare Officer) / Vince (Club Treasure) / Enock (Club Webmaster) / Vaughn (Club football Adviser) / Nick (Business and Communications manager) / James (Football adviser)

**Apologies:** James (Webmaster)

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Club Updates**

The 2022 – 2023 MKDDL league season has ended well for the HEJ u7 Blue team and for the two HEJ u8 Red and Green teams. The club now has four established teams set up and registered and will be playing in the MKDDL leagues on Saturday mornings in September 2023. The u7 Yellow team is now set up and registered for the league but a longer term team manager is still needed.

The club has now set up and registered the u10 girls and the u7's mixed team which are both approved and insured via the FA and MKDDL. The club currently has 58 players registered who have all paid the club memberships which includes the current mini kickers age group. We currently have 12 u10 girls attending free training sessions for the time being. We have been trying to recruit new players and members but do not currently have enough up and coming under 7 players or u10 girls to join the September leagues 2023.

We have used £200 of the club money towards online social media advertising for these specific age groups to recruit new players to join the club over the last two months. It was acknowledged during the meeting that as the Club grows over the next few years it is likely we will need to source a larger playing facility in the near future with adequate playing fields and parking and access to toilet facilities. It was agreed during this meeting that a further discussion needs to take place with the school around having access to the school toilets.

During this meeting it was recognised it has been a very successful year for the club as a whole which is slowly developing and growing in size and lots of new players are asking to join and the club has doubled in size over the last year. We currently have an established committee and approved officials and nine FA compliant and DBS

checked coaches volunteering for the club. The club has successfully been approved for the 2023-2024 Affiliation and all FA registration and insurances have now been paid. The 2022 Christmas party went extremely well at the Milton Keynes Power League, over 50 children attended and all enjoyed the PlayStation party, dodgeball and disco and the Grinch Santa. The annual club presentation was a great success on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2023 over 50 children attended the event all enjoyed the activities provided, bouncy castles, Tug or War and fun games arranged and all players received trophies and medals. The football club has formed a good working relationship with the school and local residents in Giffard Park. The club has received a lot of positive feedback over the last year but the standards must be maintained and player conduct must be consistently managed.

## **2. Club philosophy and Strategy**

The club philosophy has not changed since 2018, HEJ Athletic recognises that all children play football for different reasons. The Football club is and has always been inclusive for boys and girls and wants all of its current and future members to enjoy playing football, having fun and learning and developing their football skills in a safe, and well managed environment with training sessions twice a week for an affordable cost and for all abilities for boys and girls.

However, the club Committee recognises and accepts that as a newly formed club we are all still learning how best to manage and run the club moving forward and having the right playing strategy in place is crucial for the club to move forward. The committee agreed during this meeting that the team managers and coaches for all the HEJ teams have overall discretion on selecting the players for the matches and tournament squads and attendances at training and effort levels will always be considered moving forward when pick squads. HEJ football club commits to equal and fair playing time for all players who are selected to play in in matches or tournaments. If there are any players who are missing regular training sessions then our club coaches and officials will speak to the parents as this may affect their selection for games and tournaments.

It was recognised during this meeting that there have been some recent parent complaints about players not having equal game time and this has now been fully reviewed addressed as stated above. During this meeting it was provisionally agreed that the Club colours and future match kits will be Green to help the football club form an unique identity moving forward.

## **3. Sponsorship**

The football club received a generous sponsorship this year in 2023 from the following companies.

**Interact Medical - £1000**

**Marshall Coaches - £300**

**Flinn Construction - £250**

**Shires Construction - £250**

## **Social Coffee Impact - £250**

## **HEJ Neighbourhood Coffee - £250**

The sponsorship money listed above has been used towards purchasing the 2023 – 2024 (80 x Puma match kits), topping up the FA grants towards the set of Academy Goals, 5 x Respect Markers, New footballs, 11 x Puma Coaches Tracksuits, League Affiliation Costs, paying for 2 x coaches to complete their level 1 football coaching courses and social media advertising and medals and trophies for the presentation. It was agreed during the meeting that the club permissions must be sought before the HEJ FC badge is used by any member of the club. In future if any company is willing to offer the Club Sponsorship this will be accepted straight away. All of the HEJ teams must have the same training and match kits and any equipment's.

### **4. Club Finances**

The club finances are in a much better position this year and there is currently £3,886.94 in the club account. It was acknowledged during the meeting that the HEJ October 2022 tournament generated £2600 for the club and several company sponsorships have been received in May and June 2023 as stated above which has made the club financially stable this year. The club membership continues to be £130 a year which is paid in two instalments of £65 on the 1 of April and October. It has taken a while to collect all the membership payments however 58 payments were received in April 2023. We have also charged all the players £30 towards their 2023-2024 match kits and £30 for any player who was participating in this year's tournament season. The club finances have been tightly managed throughout the year and all the monthly pitch rental costs have been paid on time and are currently up to date. The club has made applications to the FA for additional funding via the Boost Fund and community grants.

### **5. Winter Training**

It was recognised during the meeting that the club is growing in size and with the current number of players the grass field will become damaged if it is not looked after during the winter months and more training space is needed. It was agreed during this committee meeting that the school facilities, the field, hall and Mugga pitches will be utilised for the winter training sessions.

### **Safeguarding Matters**

The club committee takes safeguarding matters very seriously. The safety and well-being of each and every member is of paramount consideration. There have been some low-level incidents reported by coaches and parents within training sessions and matches which have been managed internally and resolved appropriately with follow up discussions and advice given. There have not been any significant safeguarding matters reported within the club. There have been a few poor practices observed during league matches from other club managers and coaches displaying inappropriate behaviours which have been reported to the league and FA. Over the last few weeks we have been trying to implement new and consistent safeguarding standards across the club.

It was agreed that parents can drop off their child for training but all players must be collected by their recognised carer or parent before leaving the school premises at the end of training sessions or matches. All Parents contact details should be uploaded onto the Whole game system and regularly updated. It was agreed that as a football club we need to implement stricter measures at the beginning and at the end of every training session and match to prevent accidental injuries from happening. The football club does not tolerate any verbally abusive or threatening behaviour, no dogs are allowed at the school under any circumstances, no smoking policy and no alcohol under any circumstances. Respect markers are used at every home game to keep players and spectators safe.

## **6. Future Fundraising**

The club has set the pre-season tournament date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2023. The Tournament has been agreed by the School and FA approved and sanctioned. It is hoped that each age group will have up to 12-14 teams. As a club we are hoping to increase the event size from last year to generate more money for the club. There is still lots to organise and to plan and a further meeting date was set for the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 to discuss the tournament in more detail. A number of parent volunteers will be required to help manage and run this event smoothly.

## **7. Club Website**

The club website has been updated since the last committee meeting took place and a lot more information about the club has been added including the safeguarding policies and behaviour management code of conduct since the last meeting. The club endorsed the policy that all safeguarding matters will be discussed and managed by the committee members.

## **Success stories**

The football club now has eight players training with pre-development and elite centres. The HEJ Reds and HEJ Blues are both playing in the USA top leagues for the respective age groups. Coach Phi recently played at the don's stadium for the u18's and number of players attended this match to support him during and after the game.