



Club Committee & Managers meeting – 19th November 2023

Time: 19:00pm – 21:00pm

Venue: Giffard Park Pub

Meeting Attendees: Matt (Club Chairman) / Leon (Club Secretary) / Viktor (Club Welfare Officer) / Enock (Club Webmaster) / Vaughn (Club football Adviser) / Nick (Business and Communications manager) / James (Football adviser) / Liam (Club Coach) / Nick (Team Manager)

Apologies: Vince (Club Treasure) / Colby (Coach)

Agenda

1. Club Updates

2023 has been a successful year for HEJ football club which has grown in size from 42 to 64 members. The club's player membership fee remains at £130 a year for each player and a £30 fee for the club match kits. The football clubs FA affiliation application was successfully approved in June 2023 for all five teams and the certificate has been issued to the club for the 2023 – 2024 season and uploaded onto the club website.

All 12 of the club's parent volunteers, current committee members, coaches and managers have valid DBS certificates and all of the FA mandatory coaching courses have been completed and paid for by the club. The club has 12 approved and DBS checked parent coaches. The club has five established teams who are registered in the MKDDL. HEJ Reds and Greens (u9's), Blues and Yellows (u8's). The newly formed u7 team will be starting in the MKDDL league in January 2024 and will be managed by Vaughn. It has been a successful year of grassroots football for all the HEJ teams. The teams were also active in the summer tournament season.

The mini kicker sessions have taken a few months to get up and running and the club has invested heavily over the last few months in advertising these sessions via social medial websites. All five HEJ teams have been registered into the 2023-2024 MKDDI leagues.

The football club is looking to expand and to set up new teams in 2024 and to increase the memberships for the mini kickers in 2024. All of the teams from u7 – u9's train on Monday and Fridays. During the meeting player retention was discussed, the football club wants to keep all the players at the club for as long as possible. The football club remains committed to investing into coaches' development.

2. Club Philosophy and Strategy

The football club philosophy has not changed since 2018. HEJ Athletic FC recognises that all children within our club 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 and low-cost membership.

The HEJ training model gives children the opportunity to practice twice a week to enhance their football skills. The club membership remains at £130 per year which is one of the cheaper club membership plans in MK. During the meeting all the committee members acknowledged that the club strategy will have to evolve as the club grows in size with new players joining. The football club will be encouraging some of the female parent volunteers in 2024 to join the clubs committee management team to ensure the club has a diverse management team and promotes equality throughout the club.

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 company 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 and 4 sets of Samba goals, 5 x Respect Markers, New footballs, 12 x Puma Coaches Tracksuits, League Affiliation Costs, paying for 3 x coaches to complete their level 1 football coaching courses and social media advertising and medals and trophies for the presentation. A local building merchants in Milton Keynes is wanting to sponsor the football club and is willing to donate building materials for a wooden storage unit at the school. All of the company sponsors are given a personalised and framed HEJ shirt and the company logos are advertised on the club website and each company had an advertisement page in the HEJ 2023 tournament programme. Interact medical have also sponsored the CLUB official NEON HEJ sign.

4. Club Finances 2023

Money Generated by the Club - £22,450

Memberships - £8400

Kit Sales - £2200

Player Tournament entry fees - £1400

HEJ pre-season Tournament - £9500

Club Sponsorship - £2300

The club has spent the following money in 2023 - £21,000

FA club Affiliation - £340

80 x Puma match kits £2800

Winter flood Lights - £450

Club advertisement - £600

DBS checks and FA Training courses - £600

Summer Tournaments Entries- £1400

Football Training Equipment / Samba Goals / Respect Markers/ Line Paint / - £1500

Club annual Presentation - £700

Club Christmas Party - £700

Tournament expenditure - £6500

Pitch hire - £5000

Coaches Christmas Meal - £400

Current HEJ Account in November 2023 - £3584

5. Winter Training

There have been a few parents asking this year for the clubs Winter training to be held at an Astro facility in MK rather than playing at Giffard Park school twice a week due to children getting muddy on the grass and damaging the pitches. The football club has committed to Giffard Park school this year and will continue to rent the school facilities for the winter training sessions twice a week. The football club has invested heavily into the floodlights and cables since 2021 which has been working okay on the grass over the last 2 years when the field is not waterlogged and the training areas are rotated each week to prevent the field from becoming damaged. The pitch space under the floodlights is becoming limited due to the number of teams training under the lights on Monday and Fridays. The managers and coaches do their best to take care of the grass field and this was reseeded in April 2023.

The school has a concrete MUGGA floodlit pitch which the club has been using and the school hall can be used by teams in extreme weather conditions. The training times need to be staggered when the grass is not being used. The football club will try to find company sponsorships to help towards the costs of hiring a winter facility between January – March 2024. The club is committed to not increasing the annual memberships at this time but the pricing plan is reviewed regularly. It was recognised during this meeting that the Winter training costs are expensive and the club is not in a position at this time to hire astro facilities twice a week. When training on the school's mugga pitches during winter months the coaches need to adapt their training sessions to reduce the likelihood of trips and falls from happening. The players all seem to enjoy the winter training.

6. Safeguarding Matters

The football club 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. Winter training sessions have been cancelled due to severe weather conditions. Training sessions will not take place if there is lightning or Thunder or under extremely heavy rainfall and if the weather conditions reach freezing temperatures.

All Parents contact details and any health and medical conditions and issues should be uploaded onto the Whole game system and regularly updated which all coaches and managers have access to via the club secretary. 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 from any parents, 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.

The school has given the football club access their defibrillator for the event of medical emergencies which is stored in the female changing room and there is a community point located by Tesco Express next to the school which can be used in emergencies.

7. Future Fundraising

The clubs pre-season tournament was big success this year in September 2023 over 54 teams £30 and attended the event. However, it was recognised during this meeting that the tournament outlay was significantly much higher this year due to the increase in teams and the size of the event and as a small club we did not have enough parent volunteers helping on the day. The tournament generated money but not as much profit as the club had initially hoped for the amount of time and effort it took to organise the tournament event. The football club will look to organise different fundraising events to generate the club additional funds alongside company sponsorships in 2024.

8. Club Website and Communication Apps

The club website has been updated since the last committee meeting took place in July and a lot more information about the club has been added including the safeguarding policies and behaviour manage code of conduct since the last meeting. We have tried to make the club membership and joining process much easier to manage using contact forms on the website. Discussions around introducing the SPOND app into the club. It was agreed during this meeting that Individual teams will have their own discretion on how to communicate with their parents.

9. Success stories

The football club has boys and girls and girls training with elite and pre-development academies. The Under 9s enjoyed the MK dons take Over Day at Stadium MK in October 2023. The u8s and u7s will be attending the MK Dons takeover day in 2024. The club's summer presentation was a great success and a good turnout. The Christmas party has been booked for the 16th of December 2023 at Power League

MK. Master Drummer from the rock band Simple Minds will be attending the Christmas party for a master drumming session.