



STOWUPLAND FALCONS FC

PARISH COUNCIL AGM REPORT 2023

Stowupland Falcons Football Club is a grassroots club run by local volunteers with an aim to be able to provide football at all grassroots levels to the local community in and around Stowupland. The club currently has 22 teams, approximately 300 players, ranging from U7's to Veterans of both male and female, participating in Saturday and Sunday leagues. We currently do not own any of the facilities we use and rely upon facilities and land provided by Stowupland High School, the Village Hall and Parish council. We would like to say thank you for your continued generosity and support in allowing us to use your facilities and land to enable our members to continue playing football.

Our Saturday morning club, both male and female, continues to be ever popular, especially now the new housing developments are populated and more younger families move into the community. Free coaching sessions are provided by our FA qualified coaches to boys 4 to 7 years old and girls 4 to 10 years old with upwards of 50 children attending weekly. After the recent successes of the England Lionesses our girls Saturday morning club has increased in popularity and the future looks promising for the development of female football within the local community.

The youth boys section currently have 14 teams from U7's to U18's. The U7's to U11's teams compete in non-competitive leagues, which means their results are not published and teams are not placed in a league table. The focus is on developing their football skills and allowing inclusivity to all no matter what their level and abilities are. This is an important part of the FA's and SFFC philosophy in allowing inclusivity to all who wish to take part in our game. All our teams have made huge steps in their development, producing some excellent individual and team performances throughout the season with the future looking very promising for the player development of the club.

From U11's to U18's all leagues are competitive with each team being positioned in their league dependent on results, with promotion and relegation occurring. This has been a very competitive season for all our competitive youth teams, with two of our teams, U11 Blues and U15's both playing an age group up. Due to the good old British weather a number of games have had to be postponed and the season for all our teams is still very much ongoing. This has been a very competitive season with a number teams in the top half of their respective tables and are currently challenging for a top three finish.

We currently have four female teams from U11's through to our adult woman's team. They have all had a great season especially for our Women's team, who have progressed from the youth system into adult football only last season and currently sit top of their league. We are focused on continuing to develop female football within the club and will be looking at forming two new girl's

teams, U10 and U11 at the start of next season, put together from girls from our Saturday morning club. This would mean we have teams in every age group except U16's for next season.

We have 4 adult male teams, which have had mixed fortunes throughout the season. Our first team, under the wise guidance of their manager, Mark Dye, are currently competing for promotion into the senior league with things currently looking promising, fingers crossed.

The club last year was recommended by Suffolk FA to participate in the FA club development programme, where we get the personal support of our own dedicated Club Consultant for the season with practical support, including club's finances, governance, coaching, safeguarding, facilities, volunteers, marketing and communications. We also get access to a complete range of digital support, including bespoke webinars and podcasts, and the Club House, the FA's new online community. This opportunity has allowed us to update our strategic plan helping us to provide the club with a sound and sustainable structure to guide our development and ambitions for the future both on and off the pitch.

Our club focus is to continue to progress and develop the club, both on and off the field. On the field we are looking at reintroducing our disability programme, starting this summer with the set-up of a walking football team for the over 50's. We continue to discuss the opportunity of developing a 3G facility with Stowupland High School and fully support the Village Hall in their plans and progression to redevelop facilities for all users.

The club currently has 59 volunteers supporting the running of the club from team coaches, welfare and safeguarding officers to kit and equipment procurement. These volunteers provided over 13,000 volunteer hours last year allowing us to deliver the opportunity of playing football within our community, ensuring that community spirit is maintained and grown. The net value to our community these volunteers provide in monetary terms, working off the daily living wage of £9.50 would be around £123,000 per year. This figure does not include the mental and physical health and wellbeing benefits having the opportunity to play a team sport such as football provides to the community.

Thank you.

Darren White

SFFC Committee Member