

South Bank Cuaco

Secretary's Report 2018/19

As is often the way there is a contrast from one season to the next. The weather, for the season, was reasonably kind and relatively few fixtures were lost because of the pitch conditions. Also in contrast the Club experienced some "on field success" details of which are recorded below. The improvement in the weather permitted the Club to play only one evening fixture but still had to play six "double header" fixtures. Despite the weather improvement the Club's SAL League fixtures were not completed until 4th May mainly because of the 2nd team's remaining double header games against an opposition who were unavailable to play at an earlier date because of having several other outstanding fixtures which had to be played.

The Club, in the form of Edward Watson, also took a more active role in the management of football pitches at Dulwich Sports Ground which involved the allocation of all pitches for users of the ground as well as, when required because of the weather conditions, making pitch inspections to determine whether or not the pitches would be fit for play.

Ryan Hayes continued the important task of the Club's Match Secretary assisted when necessary by Toff Choudhury especially in the sourcing alternative venues for home matches to be played after the football season closed at Dulwich Sports Ground on 6th April.

Again our Treasurer, Toff Choudhury, continued to keep a watchful eye on the Club's funds as well as mastering the related role of Club Registration Secretary which this season recorded a record number of 128 players as registered members. Toff has in addition been responsible for the submission of match results, Referee's marks and team sheets to the Amateur Football Alliance (AFA) and the Southern Amateur League (SAL). This is a key administrative task which requires the co-operation of team Captains for which their help is appreciated because unless this carried out in a timely and efficient manner fines are imposed on the Club by SAL and the AFA.

The Club completed successfully FA Charter Standard Club "health check" in January 2019. This award has a benefit to the Club of a reduced SAL League subscription which amounts to a saving for the Club of about £250.00 and, hopefully in due course, a few new footballs courtesy of the FA.

The 1st XI captained initially by Josh Thomas until his departure from the Club when he was then succeeded by Liam Coughlan. The team were again, as for the previous season, hopeful of promotion from SAL Senior Division 3 but this eluded the team which finished in third place out of 10 teams in the Division. There was not a great success either in any of the three Cup competitions in which the team was entered have been eliminated from all three competitions before the end of November.

Top goal scorer: Matt Knowles; Player's player of the season: Matthew Knowles; Manager's player of the season: John Gregson

The 2nd XI captained by Josh John struggled for the greater part of the season in SAL Intermediate Division 3 but a rally towards the end of the season meant relegation was avoided finishing in eighth place out of 11 teams. The team made some good progress in the three Cups in which they were entered especially in the AFA Intermediate Cup where they retained an interest until mid February when eliminated by Reigations.

Top goal scorer: Jointly Josh John and James Smith; Player's player of the season: Wayne Taylor; Manager's player of the season: Joe Day.

The 3rd XI by George Martin finished in eighth place out of 10 teams in SAL Junior Division 1 South.

The team's progress in the Cups was mixed with an early elimination from the League Challenge Cup in October followed by progress through to early December when knocked out of the AFA Junior Cup

Top goal scorer: Malik Ellis; Player's player of the season: Malik Ellis; Manager's player of the season: Tony Racio.

The 4th XI captained by Paddy McKeown finished in sixth place out of 10 teams in SAL Junior Division 3 South. In the AFA Minor Cup they were eliminated in November but fared better in the SAL Senior Novets Cup before losing to Old Lyonians 3rd team in January.

Top goal scorer: Ollie Johnson; Player's player of the season: Dan Rolfe; Manager's player of the season: Warren Wilson

The 5th XI captained by Andy Peterson finished in second place out of 11 teams in SAL Junior Division 5 South and promotion to Division 4 South is expected. Well done to all who contributed. The team also made some good progress in the AFA Senior Novets before being eliminated in January and even better progress in the SAL Senior Novets before being knocked out by a strong Actonians team in March.

Top goal scorer: Conor Geoghegan; Player's player of the season: Conor Geoghegan; Manager's player of the season: Keiran Ali.

The 6th XI captained by Dan George finished in ninth place out of 11 teams in SAL Junior Division 5 South. The team's progress in the AFA Intermediate Novets Cup had an entertaining 8-7 win on penalties against Old Wokingians in October before a loss on penalties by the same margin to Actonians in December. The team suffered an early elimination from SAL Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup again to Actonians in October.

Top goal scorer: Mark Payne; Player's player of the season: Aidan Quibell; Manager's player of the season: James Bull.

The 7th XI captained by Alex Walters finished in second place out of 9 teams in SAL Junior Division 6 South and promotion to Division 5 South is expected. This is a great achievement for the newly formed team.

The late formation of the team was after the entries to Cup competitions had closed.

Top goal scorer: Ollie Clark; Player's player of the season: Alfie Horsfield; Manager's player of the season: Alfie Cooper.

The Team of the Year was awarded to the 5th team.

The Ralph Salter Clubman of the Year Trophy is awarded to Warren Wilson.

The Chairman's Award goes to Alex Walters.

The awards mentioned above were presented at the Club's end of season celebrations, organised jointly by Warren Wilson, Toff Choudhury and Luke Howard and held on Saturday 18th May 2019 at Dulwich Sports Ground. There were about 60 members who attended and the Club's thanks also go to John and Jackie Howard who supported the Club and helped to make the evening a success.

Edward Watson again took charge of the Club's training, assisted by Michael Chaplin and Warren Wilson, which commenced in Dulwich Park and later continued at Crystal Palace. As in previous years the thanks of the Club go to Edward, Michael and Warren for their training skills and enthusiasm which were contributed to the Club.

The Club's Discipline record for the season showed a good improvement over the previous disastrous season but even so some of the offences committed could, with a little restraint, have been avoided. The aim for next season for all members is to ensure that the improvement shown continues.

Enjoy your summer, retain your fitness and look forward to returning to a challenging 2019/20 season.

Colin Ferris
Secretary.

4th June 2019