

South Bank Cuaco

Secretary's Report 2019/20

As every member will be aware of the onset of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK which had obliged the FA to suspend all football from being played in the Country. This became effective as far as the AFA, the SAL and the Club was concerned on 14th March 2020. When it became evident that the SAL would be unable to complete its League programme within the usual time scale of a football season a ballot of member Clubs was held which voted in favour of all League competitions being brought to an immediate end with results being expunged and the League season being declared null and void and therefore without any promotion or relegation of teams taking place.

The SAL also announced that a decision about the completion of the SAL Challenge Cup competitions will be taken at a later date when information about the resumption of football being played is available. As far as is known at the present time the AFA will await similar information regarding the resumption of football being played to enable a decision to be taken regarding the completion of the AFA Cup competitions.

Edward Watson continued his role, on behalf of the Southwark Community Sports Trust, in the management and usage football pitches at Dulwich Sports Ground including the making of pitch inspections to determine whether or not the pitches would be fit for play. As most members will be able to recall the rainfall from mid November onwards was excessive resulting in pitches at Dulwich Sports Ground to become waterlogged which kept Edward very busy and was the cause of many home games being postponed.

In early October 2019 our Match Secretary, Ryan Hayes, resigned from this position and fortunately his predecessor, Toff Choudhury, volunteered to take over these duties. The thanks of the Club go to Ryan for his past services to the Club and also to Toff for his resumption of this important role.

The Club's Treasurer, Toff Choudhury, again managed the Club's finances and his work in this respect is greatly appreciated. The Treasurer's Report will provide the details of the Club's financial position.

The Club completed successfully FA Charter Standard Club "health check" in January 2020. This is a prestigious award which requires an amount of work by a number of Club members including at least eight members obtaining the Emergency Aid qualification. A financial benefit to the Club in obtaining the Charter Club status is that this is recognised by the SAL which entitles the Club to a discount of £250.00 in its annual League registration and membership fees.

The SAL make an annual award of the Hamilton Trophy for hospitality and sportsmanship to the member Club which has obtained the highest marks as reported by Referees. The SAL will not make the award for this season because the season has not been completed however and exceptionally the SAL has announced that South Bank Cuaco was the Club with the highest marks as at the cessation of playing.

The 1st XI captained initially by Liam Coughlan until his resignation as captain when Edward Watson took over as Team Manager. Competed in the SAL Senior Division 3. In the SAL Senior Cup they lost to AFC Oldsmiths on penalties in October and then they were eliminated from the AFA Senior Cup by Merton by a 3-4 scoreline later in the same month. In the AFA Surrey/Kent Senior Cup played in February the team were victorious 2-1 over Reigatians 1st to be followed in March by a 3-4 loss to Economicals 1st.

The 2nd XI captained by Josh John competed in the SAL Intermediate Division 3. In November the team lost to Alexandra Park in the SAL Intermediate Challenge Cup. In the AFA Intermediate Cup the team has completed three rounds undefeated to reach the final tie which will be against NUFC Oilers Reserves to be played on a date yet to be arranged.

The 3rd XI captained by Jon Hanna competed in the SAL Junior Division 2 South. In the AFA Junior Cup at the end of October the team lost to Merton 3rd by the odd goal and in the SAL Minor Challenge Cup in early December the team lost to Norsemen.

The 4th XI captained by Paddy McKeown competed in the SAL Junior Division 3 South. After a victory after extra time in September over Old Salvatorians in the AFA Minor Cup the team then lost in early November to Old Parkonians. In the SAL Senior Senior Novets Challenge Cup after victories over Polytechnic 7th and Bank of England 4th the team lost 4-5, after extra time, to Old Lyonians 4th in March .

The 5th XI captained by Andy Peterson competed in the SAL Junior Division 4 South. In the AFA Senior Novets Cup the team lost 2-4 to Old Chomleians Reserves in early November. In the SAL Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup the team progressed with victories over Merton 4th, The Warren 3rd and in March HSBC 4th after extra time to reach the final of the competition where their opponents will be either Merton 5th or Broomfield 4th to be played on a date yet to be arranged.

The 6th XI captained by Dan George competed in the SAL Junior Division 4 South. In the AFA Intermediate Novets Cup after a victory over Old Sedcopians 5th in September the team lost to Old Parmiterians 6th in January. In the SAL Junior Novets Challenge Cup the team had victories over Old Blues 4th and Civil Service 7th to progress to the final against East Barnet OG 5th which has been postponed from 14th March and a date for the re-arranged final is yet to be announced.

The 7th XI captained by Alex Russell competed in the SAL Junior Division 5 South. In the AFA Junior Novets Cup the team suffered a 2-3 loss after extra time against Dorkinians 5th in September. In the SAL Junior Novets Challenge Cup in December the team faced a tough draw away against Tansley which resulted in a 0-7 defeat.

The 8th XI captained by Russell Sanchez was a late entry to the League and competed in SAL Junior Division 5 South. The team however was formed after the entries to the AFA Cup and the SAL Challenge Cup competitions had closed.

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 contributed to the Club's performance.

The Club's Discipline record for the partial season showed some improvement but suffered in a few cases with some poor behaviour and in other instances the severe interpretation by Referees of The Laws of the game. As always has been the case there is room for improvement in the future and which is what is expected from members.

Enjoy your summer, retain your fitness and hopefully at some time in the future we can look forward to returning to a challenging 2020/21 football season.

Colin Ferris
Secretary.

12th May 2020