

South Bank Cuaco

Secretary's Report 2020/21

The disruption to the 2019/20 season caused by the Coronavirus (COVID) pandemic had a unique knock on consequence for the start of the 2020/21 season because the Club was involved in three unplayed Cup competition finals involving the 2nd, 5th and 6th teams which had been carried over to be played at the start of the 2020/21 season.

The season commenced in September with games being played observing the COVID safe requirements and continued until the end of October when the FA announced under instruction from the Government that playing all football be suspended and this remained in force until games were permitted to recommence on 5th December 2020. This however was only a very short period of football activity of three weeks until again all football was suspended until the start of April.

On 2nd March 2021 the AFA announced the cancellation of all AFA Cup competitions for the season which was then followed on 10th March by the SAL announcing that all of the League competitions were to be declared as null and void but that the SAL Challenge Cup competitions would continue to be played. The SAL also announced that they would introduce mini tournaments, to be known as the SAL Trophy, for Club teams at respective competitive levels, for those Clubs with teams wishing to take part.

Edward Watson, on behalf of the Southwark Community Sports Trust, assisted in the management of the playing surfaces which included making a successful application for funding, in conjunction with Dulwich Village FC, over a period of years for the improvement of the playing the playing surfaces. Work is also being undertaken for the repair and improvement of the drainage systems for DSG which is essential as evidenced by the waterlogged pitches experienced just before Christmas.

Edward Watson has, as in previous years, undertaken the organisation and management the Club's training which was held, when permitted, at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre.

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. Toff also undertakes the role of Club Fixture Secretary in what proved to be a very demanding season and for which the Club is again appreciative.

The AFA announced that the FA Charter Standard Club "annual health check" had been cancelled for season 2020/21 and that the accreditation of this status will be carried forward to season 2021/22.

All of the Club's teams played friendly games, when a competitive game had not been arranged, but this depended upon it being possible to find a venue and suitable opposition.

The 1st XI managed by Edward Watson competed in SAL Senior Division 3 and completed 6 League games and 2 SAL Trophy games. They played two SAL Senior Challenge Cup ties recording wins against Ibis Eagles and AFC Oldsmiths before losing to West Wickham.

The 2nd XI captained by Josh John competed opened their season by playing the deferred AFA Intermediate Cup Final against NUFC Oilers Reserves which they lost 2-1. The team competed in SAL Intermediate Division 3 and completed 5 League games and 3 SAL Trophy games. In September the team lost to Polytechnic 4th team in the SAL Intermediate Challenge Cup.

The 3rd XI captained by Mark Aston competed in the SAL Junior Division 1 South and completed 5 League games and 2 SAL Trophy games as well as being awarded 2 walk over victories. In the AFA Intermediate Cup the team had a 4-2 win over NatWest 1st prior to the cancellation of the competition. In the SAL Junior Challenge Cup the team had victories over Weirside Rangers and Merton before losing to West Wickham 4th team.

The 4th XI captained by Paddy McKeown competed in the SAL Junior Division 2 South and completed 7 League games and 4 SAL Trophy games. In the SAL Minor Challenge Cup after a 3-2 victory over Actonians 6th the team lost 3-2 to Polytechnic 7th in April.

The 5th XI captained by Andy Peterson opened the season by playing the deferred SAL Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup final against Broomfield 4th which they lost 2-1. The team competed in the SAL Junior Division 3 South and completed 6 League games and 4 SAL Trophy games. In the SAL Senior Novets Challenge Cup the team had an early exit in October losing 3-1 to Ibis Eagles 3rd team.

The 6th XI captained by Dan George opened the season by playing the deferred SAL Junior Novets Challenge Cup final against East Barnet Old Grammarians 5th team which they lost 2-1. The team competed in the SAL Junior Division 4 South and completed 7 League games and 3 SAL Trophy games. In the SAL Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup the team had a 2-0 victory over Bank of England 5th before losing 2-0 to Merton 4th team in April.

The 7th XI captained by Alex Russell competed in the SAL Junior Division 5A South and completed 6 League games and a single SAL Trophy game as well as being awarded 2 walk over victories. In the AFA Novets Cup the team suffered a 4-1 loss to Old Wilsonians 7th in October. In the SAL Intermediate Novets Challenge Cup a 2-1 victory over Old Blues 4th was followed by a 3-0 defeat to West Wickham 6th in April.

The 8th XI captained by Russell Sanchez competed in the SAL Junior Division 5B South and completed 8 League games and 2 SAL Trophy games as well as being awarded a walk over victory. In the AFA Novets Cup the team suffered a 8-0 loss to Carshalton 3rd team in October.

The 9th XI was added for the start of the season captained by Philip Trumen competed in the SAL Junior Division 5B South and completed 7 League games and 3 SAL Trophy games. The addition of the team was too late to be included in both the AFA Cup and the SAL Challenge Cup competitions.

The 10th XI was formed as a result of the increase in the Club's playing membership and was captained by Ian Pereira. The addition of the team was too late to be included in the SAL League, the AFA Cup and the SAL Challenge Cup competitions. The team's season commenced at the end of October with a friendly and a win 3-1 against Old Wilsonians 9th team. It was, however, possible for the team to be entered in the SAL Trophy which provided the team with 3 competitive games for the season.

The Club's Discipline record for the season, when far fewer games played than in a normal season, is not therefore comparable, however there were 27 discipline offences recorded, including 2 being sent off as a result of receiving a second yellow card, does suggest that there is room for improvement. All playing members are asked to make every effort to avoid their name becoming an entry in the Referee's book.

I trust that all members will stay well and will enjoy the summer remembering to keep fit and hopefully we can look forward to a 2021/22 football season to be played when we look forward to most of the COVID restrictions having been removed.

Colin Ferris
Secretary.

6th June 2021