

THEY THINK IT'S ALL ROVERS... IT IS NOW!



DREAM | BELIEVE | ACHIEVE

www.orpingtonrovers.com

Edition 03

Season 20/21

Chairman's Introduction

2020!

It seems a bit odd to say the Committee and Council at Orpington Rovers FC want to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous but moreover a healthy New Year. That is because this year will be remembered for COVID-19 and its impact on our health, economic well-being and loss of football playing time. This year has been dramatically different to any other and for some a year to forget.

Our thoughts are with all those affected by the illness. In addition, we applaud the efforts of our key workers and the NHS. This year has seen the loss of some football names from our past, notably, Jack Charlton and Nobby Stiles, two England Legends and more recently the mercurial talent and football genius of Diego Maradona.

COVID-19 and shut down

It was hugely disappointing for everyone that we had to close the ground to football again due to national restrictions. I would like to express once again my thanks to everyone at the Club for your patience and understanding. However, on 2nd December we were open for business again, but even in this short space of time, schools have sent home year groups to self-isolate and the Club is in a COVID-19 Tier 2 area. This has meant more games being postponed often at short notice. Huge frustration all round!

The Risk Assessment and Club Policy has been revised and is on our website.

A polite reminder about Fees and impact of COVID-19 – club policy

The COVID-19 pandemic is an unwelcome visitor and for the first time in our history we decided last Spring to make refunds or offer a reduction on this year's fees. We are incredibly lucky to have such an amazing membership with over 90% of you backing the Club by paying your fees upfront over 3 terms – thank you.

Club Policy is clear as set out in the parent's pack – fees pay for membership (in addition the fee pays for upkeep and fixed costs at the ground).

The fee does not guarantee football, that is impossible for us to undertake and to set a workable budget.

There is no option for a 'pay as you play' approach, because simply it is too difficult to budget for and administer – hence fees are collected, and we do not, as a rule make refunds as per Club policy.

Our budget this year has been impacted by COVID-19. In the Spring of 2020, the Club decided, as it was such an unprecedented event, even though against our policy, we would make refunds and I want to assure everyone, that was the right thing to do.

It may also be the right thing to do in the Spring of 2021, when we can assess more fully the impact on our finances, but I cannot guarantee that will be the case, as it will need careful consideration as our ambition is to continue to provide a Club capable of meeting demand and at the same time being self-sufficient.

We have established a review of fees; and from next season we will be moving to an online payment system.

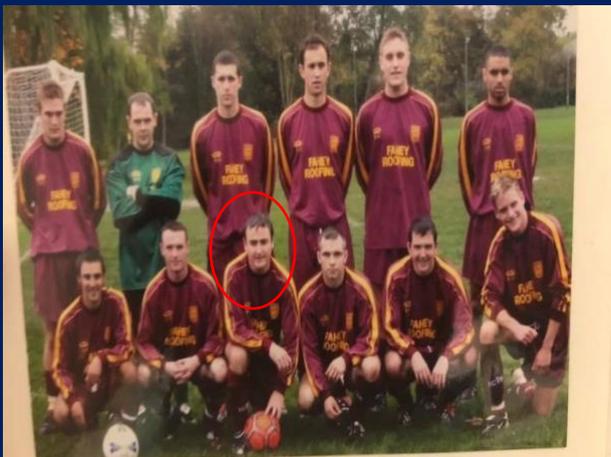


HO HO HOWhen they were young!

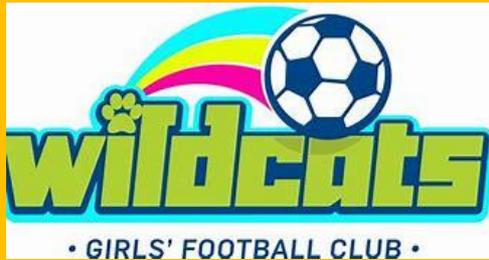
In the section we wind back the years for a few of our managers. Can you name the manager against the photos? Look at the circled face and decide for yourself!

No prizes but it is our stocking filler for Christmas.

You are looking for Danny Rahilly, Dan Berry, Paul Bailey, Matt Ashley, Scott Drew and Ross Dixey!



Girls Football - Application for Wildcats status



Our exciting Saturday Girls Football Club has caught the attention of the FA who have invited us to apply to become a Wildcats Centre.

This process is not simple, but we are at least 85% of where we need to be to access funding, lots of promotional material and other equipment, resources.

Fingers crossed on this, as we have only 14 days to complete the application!

If your girl is between 5-11 years old and is interested in taking part, please do email me.

Sponsorship

In our next Newsletter I will have some exceptionally good news about a Club kit sponsor from next season and we are looking at other sponsorship options for small businesses who are affiliated to the Club.

I know a number sponsor training kits and this can continue, but we will also be looking at a range of other options, including placards at the ground and packages – so watch this space. The future is bright!



Football Foundation Grant



I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded a grant by the Football Foundation towards replacing all our aging goalposts and nets.

This is the second such grant we have been awarded which enables us to undertake some improvements at the ground.

However, we will have to find 25% of the cost, so this again links to the point I made about collection of fees being assured.

This is terrific news and a real statement of intent by the Club.



Dugouts nearing completion

The new dugouts at the ground now have roofs on them and very shortly, hopefully before xmas , they will have grills fitted to the front of them. They still need a bit of work on the roofs to make them more stable but at least we have them now.

It is a real shame we cannot sanction their use fully at present, but in addition, when we deem them usable, they will have seating and be marked Home and Away teams.



Monthly Club Meeting

At the recent Club meeting it was proposed that the Club introduces a small inner Council to manage club development and strategy. This was carried unanimously and now gives the Club an excellent footing for driving things forward.

The Club is also looking for referees to add to our pool – you may already be qualified, or you may want to do so. If you know someone or are thinking about it, you must be a minimum of 14 years of age. For more information please do contact Ross Crawford the Club Secretary or Gill Bussy the Club Welfare Officer.

This a really good way to learn the laws of the game but also earn some money once you are trained. Referees make games happen and without them the game is not possible.

The Social Club

Tombola & Hamper – A Winter Warmer!

Thanks to all who support our monthly Tombola! We now have a significant number of members which has surged since YOU entered via your signing on papers this season.

Congratulations to our November winner – Heidi Jones!

This month's draw is a Christmas special....

Draw 1 – Prize - The Money (half the pot!)



Draw 2 – Prize – A Bumper John Lewis Hamper



Draw 3 – Prize – A Deluxe Cadbury's Chocolate Hamper



It may be too late for December but if you want to join for January is easy to do, just follow the instructions below.

To join – please email OrpingtonRovers.social@hotmail.com

“Who were the young”

Top left – Dan Berry, top right – Scott Drew

Middle left – Paul Bailey, Middle right – Ross Dixey

Bottom left – Danny Rahilly, Bottom right – Matt Ashley

Committee Members



Chairman – Paul Barnard



Social Secretaries – Alice Kennet & Alex Bolton-Humphrey



Secretary – Ross Crawford



Fixtures Secretary – Karen Barnard



Treasurer – Neil Barnes

Kit Manager –



Membership Secretary – Rinaldo Besate



Head Groundsman – Alan McIlvaney



Club Welfare Officer – Gill Bussy



Club Development Officer – John Christian



Club Sponsorship Officer – Andy Boyle



Communications & PR Specialist – Julie Devonshire