

27th April 2024



### *Coaching – Paul Fletcher*

This season we began with more coaching groups put on with the splitting of the women into 2 squads, meaning as usual trying to maximise time, space and resources.

The women 1 started the season with no coach and again we pass on our sincere thanks to Hazel and Katy for getting the season underway for the women 1. Adrian joined the men 1 mid Nov after Nick and Theo had taken the start of the season for the men, we also thank them for their efforts with the squad, especially in the distributive early weeks. New member to the club Stephen Riley took over the men 3 from myself again in November. Martin leading the women 2 sessions adding more assistants throughout the year as his group grew and grew.

We took the decision to invite all members in school years 8 and above (aged 12/13) to our senior sessions, rather than running a set U14 session like previous years, with the strong establishment of the women 2 and some young, very young, faces appearing in the men 3 late into the season this has paid dividends with all members improving and making valuable contributions to their teams.

We continue to have constricted times and pitch space due to pitch commitments at Ashdown. With the recently completed 3G pitch developments at Rossmore we hope that pitch time maybe freed up with football clubs relocating from Ashdown to Rossmore. We have already expressed interests in more pitch time and we hope to update you on this over the summer. As alluded to during the winter questionnaire, we hope to secure sometime on Wednesdays.

We carried out, and continue to be committed to hearing from you, our members, on how coaching can be improved, following the survey mid-season, tweaks to coaches, plans were made, I would like to encourage any feedback to be continue to be passed on to myself, even throughout the season and not just during these avenues.

Having introduced indoor sessions this season, we plan to carry on providing these throughout next season, thank you Laura for organising these sessions.

Numbers at sessions throughout the season have varied. The woman's sessions have been fantastically attended, bolstered by the tie up with a local school, I look forward to seeing this grow again next season. The men's attendance at sessions however have been poorly attended, at times, however improved post January, hopefully with a more settled team in the same league next year will settle these numbers throughout the season.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to all our coaches, Hazel, Katy, Nick, Theo, Martin, Ali, Lloyd, Steve, Casey, Dave, Bob and Lowie.

Goals for next season:

- Settled start to the season with coaches and teams.
- Introduce a 2nd night of coaching.
- Further develop our young stars and have more playing come Saturdays.