



COSTESSEY SPORTS CLUB – ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has been hugely challenging for Costessey Sports Club. Covid-19 brought an abrupt end to the 2019/20 football season back in March 2020 meaning league seasons were null and voided or settled via a points per game basis. This meant that we had to cancel our summer tournament, held at Longwater Lane, a very popular event amongst Norfolk football and our main source of income. We then were permitted to restart but under new regulations to keep all players, coaches and spectators safe in June. This meant having to write and create risk assessments and guidance which has then had to be regularly updated and amended with every change of government guidance.

The 2020/21 season began in September but much like the previous one, was ended in January, null and voided due to losing so much of the season to the winter lockdowns. Football recently returned in April with our leagues and FA trying to complete cup competitions and the creation of a couple of new cup competitions to get people outside and active once more. We have been faced with not being able to use our local pitches, first due to not having access to toilets, which we were grateful to be assisted by the council in hiring portaloos and then due to reseeding of both Breckland & Longwater. This has meant all our teams having to play matches outside of Costessey which again has been extremely challenging to find spaces to house 28 teams as well as the cancellation of our 2021 tournament.

On a positive note, the club were awarded three awards at the Norfolk FA Awards; Club of the Year, Rising Star of the Year for young coach, referee and former player Callum Kirby and We Only Do Positive award for the creation of our video highlighting the impact of adult behaviour on young players filmed at Breckland Park. It was wonderful to be recognised by our local FA as an example of best practise for all our work to bring affordable and accessible football to the people of our community.

At the time of writing, we have several teams who have reached the later stages of cup competitions so despite all the lockdowns and the hardships we have faced, we hope the season ends with silverware for the trophy cabinet in the Costessey Centre. We currently look forward to the 2021/22 season with an expected 28 teams due to compete, approximately 400 players, boys, girls, ladies, men, from 4 to 50 all wearing the red & black of Costessey Sports Club.

Dan Henry

Costessey Sports Chairman