

BLUES BUZZ 18 December 2021

BLUES GO GREEN AT WATERHALL

With energy prices rising sharply the Club has seen its bill for electric almost double this year based on comparable years.

This is firstly down to increased Floodlight usage; the Club hosts training on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday on its main pitch and the 3G is in constant use in the hours of darkness. The old filament bulbs burn through power and they are expensive to replace at £150 a shot – not including plant and manpower costs. The Club intends to replace these with LED lights in the New Year, which is expected to cut cost by about 70%.

Secondly, heating costs were becoming unsustainable – both the radiators in the Clubhouse and the old immersion boilers for the club showers that had become inefficient.

The radiators in the Clubhouse were very old 'Storage' Heaters heated through electric filament and had become obsolete.

The showers used two large cylinders that can either be both hot or both cold and cost an average of £400 to heat up; it was cheaper to keep the water heated than to constantly turn off and on.

The latest electric bill in November was more than £3000.

Over the course of the last week BB Plumbing, owned by Paul & Alfie Dunk, have installed a Air Source Heat Pump (Heat Pump) at the Club. Water heated radiators have been fitted throughout the main clubhouse social areas and extensive pipe and controls work has been carried out. The Heat Pump takes ambient heat/energy from the air and converts this into heat, allowing for the water in the tanks to be heated at no cost. Power is still required for elements of the heating system but the Club expect to see about 65% saving on power costs for the heating of water – not to mention having a warm clubhouse!

Not only is this an economic solution that will save the club serious money – seeing a complete return on investment in less than 2.5 years (after which, we expect a saving in the region of £2500 per month during the season) but it is a completely 'green' solution using natural energy and effectively turning this into heated water. Coupled with the LED installation we expect to reduce our usage of fossil fuel by about 80%.

The Club would like to say thank you to Paul and Alfie Dunk who worked tirelessly and long hours to get the installation completed prior to the New Year. If any Club member is thinking about Air Source Heating then please do contact them on alfie@bbhp.co.uk or paul@bbhp.co.uk.

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