



## HARVESTERS FC – MEMBERS UPDATE MARCH 2022

### Contents:

- ⚽ CHAIR UPDATE – Highlights from the February Fun Day and sponsorship news
- ⚽ TEAM NEWS – updates from some of the teams across the club
- ⚽ FOOTBALL FOCUS – our Fixtures Secretary Sarah Rowland talks about her role
- ⚽ OFFSIDE – other areas of news and general updates for you
- ⚽ GET INVOLVED – volunteer opportunities and dates for the diary

## CHAIR UPDATE – by Mark Kelly

Welcome to the March edition of the Harvesters FC newsletter. I hope you're all enjoying your football at Harvesters despite the inclement weather we've had recently. Football is fun in all conditions, rain or shine as long as you've got appropriate clothing, so please do make sure all the players have a few extra layers on right now.



We've had a busy time at the club since the start of the year with the site being at capacity most weekends, including one Sunday where we had a record number of matches on a day – 21!

### February Fun Day

We were delighted to have finally staged the rescheduled Festive Fun session on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February (aptly renamed the February Fun day), and it was great to see so many of you down there getting involved in some of the activities on the AWP. This was our way of saying thank you to all our members who put so much time in supporting the club and travelling back and forth to all the various training sessions and matches each week.

The session was an open event, and everyone was encouraged to have a go on the pitch. We had nearly 200 people getting involved and trying to beat the goalie, hit the cross bar or get the best time on the obstacle course. It was a fantastic day and I'd like to say thank you to everyone from our event and kiosk team who helped make it happen, with special

thanks going to Geoff Rowland for running an obstacle course that rivalled Ninja Warrior, and Andy Halliwell for facing over 400 penalties!

Further thanks go to Pro:Direct for bringing their boot van which offered people a chance to try out the latest Nike boots and also have a go on FIFA on the PS5.

My personal highlight of the day was seeing our president and club founder Margaret Southgate, reminiscing with one of our members who played in one of the first Harvesters teams back in the late 1980s along with their son who now plays in the u8s. We can say for sure we now have a second generation fully established at Harvesters – that's the type of lifelong engagement we like to see!

Here are some pictures from the day:

### *One of the many penalties Andy faced:*



*Cross bar challenge*



*Target practice*



*One of our members in full flow on the obstacle course*



*The boot bus!*



## New sponsorship deal!

You may have noticed some new Hamptons signs up around the club as well; don't worry we're not for sale! We are however really pleased to have agreed a deal with Hamptons to be a club supporter for the next 3 years. This is a new and innovative collaboration for the club which will include shirt sponsorship for 10 teams, several prominent signage boards and also a commitment from Hamptons to provide a donation for each property sale or rental involving a member of the Harvesters FC football community.

As a charity this financial support is invaluable and enables the club to continue to provide an excellent development experience for all who come to the club. From keeping the pitches in the best possible condition to providing highly experienced and qualified coaches to lead the coaching sessions and support our dedicated team manager workforce.

I'd like to say thank you to Nik Foreman and Robert Wegenek who helped set up the arrangement and Martin Gibbins and Nadya Basrawi from Hamptons for their support and I'm looking forward to seeing them down the club soon.

We have more sponsorship opportunities, and it's a great way for a local business to support the club - if you'd like to get involved, please contact [sponsorship@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@harvestersfc.co.uk)



So that's it from me for now. I hope you have an excellent time at the club over the next few months as we approach the end of the season. Remember our whole aim is to ensure everyone who comes to the club has a brilliant developmental experience and learns to play the game in the right way, challenges themselves to grow, and builds a lifelong passion for the game. We have no targets to win matches or leagues as such - if we do that's great - but for us the main thing is always to see everyone having fun and enjoying themselves.

**Mark Kelly**  
Chair - Harvesters FC

## TEAM NEWS

From a coaching point of view, it's been a very eventful season so far, what with it being the first one post Covid (fingers crossed!). On top of all the usual work and sessions that the coaching team conduct around the club, there are a few notable things to pick up on.

We are really pleased to have welcomed Miguel to the coaching team. He brings a wealth of experience and has had a different coaching background, so it's been great for all of the coaches to share ideas with him.

We have also continued to support our young club members who have been doing their Duke of Edinburgh awards or have an interest in coaching. By assisting the coaching team, they are getting some great experience not only about football but around interacting with youngsters. At the same time, we've also seen other volunteers come in, and we have Harrison who is a student who has come in from the University of Herts and spent time shadowing myself and other coaches as part of his degree. We feel it's really important to provide these opportunities to youngsters and who knows, we might be helping to put the next Pep on their coaching ladder!

Development is not only for players – for our Saturday sessions (which are always coach led), we recently handed over to our managers with the coaches took a supporting role – this enabled the managers to start to utilise the qualifications they have earned or are earning and lead on a session. I think this was beneficial to all and we'll continue this as an exercise later in the season.

Our Vixens group continues to grow (see picture) and if you are aware of any young girls in Year 1 – Year 6 who are looking to play please let them know they can contact us at [newplayer@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:newplayer@harvestersfc.co.uk). They'd



be more than welcome to come to a session (Thursdays at 5pm) to see if they like it.

We are looking to set some more teams up for our young girls and the Vixen session is an ideal place to start to put them together – the more the merrier!

It's also been great to see our new U9 Boy's Development squad continue to grow, and they've played a number of games and been part of a link up we are making with like-minded clubs in the area. The squad took part recently in a tournament and more than held their own against some U10 and U11 squads - great to see the level enjoyment!

Finally, I would like to point people to our [policies](#) on our website should they need any information and of course to say that if you have any questions do please just drop me a line – thank you for your continued support.

**Craig Budge**  
Director of Football

## FOOTBALL FOCUS

**Sarah Rowland, Fixture Secretary:**

**Sarah gives us an insight into the vital role she plays at Harvesters FC.**

As the fixtures secretary to a large grassroots club with over 40 teams, I am in charge of assigning kick off times. As we have more teams than we can accommodate on site at one time, so I need to co-ordinate with three different leagues - Watford Friendly League (WFL), West Herts Youth League (WHYL) and Herts Girls Football Partnership League (HGFPL).

The kick off times change every week depending on the home games assigned by each league and providing the flexibility of religious dispensation.

The British inclement weather also like to plays its part meaning I work with our site manager Nick each week who determines which pitches are playable and then communicate this to teams.

At Harvester's we are very lucky to work with Norman Appleby who coordinates all our qualified referees, something that set us apart from other clubs - all of this is then uploaded to our Pitchero system.

I also manage the All Weather Pitch (AWP) bookings, training and kick off time, player registrations and many other administrative roles.

As well as all of this, I am a mum of three boys who all play football at Harvesters and my husband runs a team (and has been doing so for the last 5 years)!

## OFF-SIDE - *in other news*

**Harvesters Player Voice!**

We believe that we provide a great environment for boys and girls to develop and play football in a safe friendly environment. As part of our commitment to offer the best developmental experience it is important to get the views of our members. We are therefore asking all players to complete the player voice form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx1AZSeWlNeTFIeru0RxMoaJ66\\_aLsEcpCrjWamJh34jTKVw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx1AZSeWlNeTFIeru0RxMoaJ66_aLsEcpCrjWamJh34jTKVw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

This should be done honestly and based on this season (if you need to assist your son/daughter then please do so but allow them to answer for themselves). If you have multiple children with us then the form can be completed more than once. The deadline for completing is **Friday 11 March!**

We are also planning a parent voice survey later in the season - which we know you will be looking forward to!

**Managers Forum**

It's been a busy time off the pitch with Committee Meetings and our Managers Forums taking place. Our last Managers Forum saw a change of format

with discussion groups and action plans being created - thank you to all of our managers for participating and we are looking forward to implementing some of the ideas that came out of this.



### Half Term fun at Camp!

A huge thank you to Charlie Holmes and his team for a very successful Half Term Camp – the weather was very mixed as I am sure you all know but the children still managed to learn some key skills and have a good time – more dates for future camps will be released so please look out for these on our website.

### Kit news and sponsorship

We would also like to provide a heads up now that we are planning next seasons new kit – you will be emailed with more details about ordering this for your child in the coming weeks.

As Mark mentioned, there are always sponsorship opportunities to support the club. Sponsoring Harvesters FC is an opportunity to promote your brand or business to the local community whilst helping the club to raise vital funds. We can provide a range of sponsorship opportunities from pitch side banners, team shirts, website space as well as other opportunities. Packages start from only £250.

If you would like to know more about our sponsorship opportunities we would love to hear from you – please contact us – [sponsorship@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:sponsorship@harvestersfc.co.uk)

### Boot swap!!

We would like to re-introduce a boot swap at Harvesters – if you have any football boots that are in used but good condition please bring them down to the club – they should be clean, labelled with their size and tied together with an elastic band. We will have a box at the kiosk on Saturday and Sunday mornings for you to drop



your boot donations – if you would like to purchase these boots they will all be £5 a pair – payable at the kiosk at weekends – many thanks!

### Parking

Can we remind all parents and carers to please park considerately, especially on match days. If there is insufficient parking within Harvesters, could we please ask that you find a safe side street to park on and do not block driveways of our neighbours – thank you!



## GET INVOLVED

### Volunteers Required!

As you may know we are hosting the County Cup Finals on 8 and 15 May - we will be looking for volunteers to help through the day with car parking - if you would like to volunteer now please contact [club.secretary@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:club.secretary@harvestersfc.co.uk)



### Harvesters FC Presentation Day - Celebrating Success!



We are delighted that we will be running our Presentation Day - **on Sunday 12 June from 12pm**. More details will be coming out in the next few weeks - all teams will be allocated a slot for their team presentation - there will be inflatables, AWP action, BBQ, Bar and other food and drink available - we encourage everyone to mark the date in the diary now and join us for a fun afternoon to celebrate our children's success this season - why not make an afternoon of it?

As with these events, we will be asking parents and carers to volunteer throughout the afternoon - but in the meantime can you help with:

- A donation of a raffle prize
- Face painting/other entertainment
- Business help - do you run a local business and would like to be involved on Presentation Day? Perhaps you own a restaurant, are a food or drink supplier that can help with the BBQ, (meat, bread) or bar, or you can help with equipment (for example a marquee)?

Please contact [club.secretary@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:club.secretary@harvestersfc.co.uk) if you can contribute - thank you in advance!

### Dates for the Diary:

- 6 March Managers meeting (7.30pm St Albans Rugby Club)
- 28 March Wix Cup Finals hosted at Harvesters FC
- 16 and 17 April Non Playing Weekend for Easter
- 8 and 15 May Watford Friendly League Cup finals days
- 12 June Harvesters FC Presentation day
- 13 June 2022 Grass pitch renovation work starts

### Key Contacts:

Chair	Mark Kelly	Mark.Kelly@harvestersfc.co.uk
Club Secretary	Jo Walker	club.secretary@harvestersfc.co.uk
Fixture Secretary	Sarah Rowland	fixture.secretary@harvestersfc.co.uk
Director of Football	Craig Budge	craig.budge@harvestersfc.co.uk
Welfare Officer	Sarah Barnard	sarah.barnard@harvestersfc.co.uk

### Don't forget to follow us on Social Media:



@HarvestersFC



Harvestersfootball club



@HarvestersFC

## Hamptons St Albans is proud to support Harvesters Football Club.

We are always aware of the ever growing need for clubs to generate additional funds to cover increasing costs. We are offering you the possibility of helping us generate that much needed assistance.

For every property that we sell or let for the parents or family and friends associated with Harvesters FC, we will donate £500 per completed sale or £250 per completed let to the club.\*

To qualify, present this flyer when you instruct Hamptons St Albans to be sole selling or lettings agent for your home. The donation to the club is to be made upon completion.

If you would like more information please do pick up the phone or email us.

\* The promotion runs from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. For full terms & conditions ask in branch or visit [www.hamptons.co.uk/conditions/](http://www.hamptons.co.uk/conditions/)

Hamptons St Albans  
2 High Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 4EL  
Sales. 01727 890 770 [stalbands@hamptons.co.uk](mailto:stalbands@hamptons.co.uk)  
Lettings. 01727 890 780 [stalbandslettings@hamptons.co.uk](mailto:stalbandslettings@hamptons.co.uk)  
[hamptons.co.uk](http://hamptons.co.uk)

Please dial in full. If you have already appointed another agent, you may be subject to a restrictive contract.



## Player Recruitment 2022/23 Season



**Boys U9, U11 & U13 for the 2022/23 Season**

**Boys Year 1 & Reception - Training only on a Saturday**  
**Girls Years 2 - 6 - Training only on a Thursday**

- Boys teams playing in the Watford Friendly League and West Herts Youth League on a Sunday
- Training on our own brand new 3G surface and playing on our amazing grass pitches
- UEFA Qualified Coaches

To register your interest please contact  
[newplayer@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:newplayer@harvestersfc.co.uk)

Oaklands Lane, Smallford, St Albans, AL4 0HR [www.harvestersfc.co.uk](http://www.harvestersfc.co.uk)

 @HarvestersFC  harvestersfootballclub  @HarvestersFC



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