



# Harvesters FC Newsletter

March, 2021

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## All Weather Pitch Resurface

We are very pleased and excited to announce that the resurface of our AWP at Smallford started on Wednesday 24th February. It was always scheduled and budgeted to be completed in the summer months of 2021 but the third national lockdown obviously made us rethink the original plans. The committee decided that while the site was shut we would use this time to enable our teams to be able to use it during the summer months where we are able to do so. We will be updating everyone on the maintenance around the new surface and the allowable footwear. As this is an investment of circa £90,000 we will make no apologies for asking that it be carefully looked after! We will provide more online updates as the project continues.

## Chairman's Statement

Firstly, I really hope you're all safe and well and have been able to cope during this lockdown. I know it's been hard for everyone being apart from loved ones, the stress of work arrangements and not being able to do all the things we usually would. Hopefully some of the activities we've posted on Facebook over the last few weeks have provided some entertainment and fun for your households. Personally, we've designed lots of football kits, footballs and trophies in my household which kept us all busy for a while. I'd just like to say thank you for everyone behind the scenes who helped pull those activities together - running and jumping around living rooms whilst presenting to the camera takes some doing and it was a great effort by our coaches for doing that!

With the announcement from Boris earlier this month, we're now all really excited and have all our fingers crossed that football will now be able to commence from the 29th March. We can't wait to see you all back and we'll be working really closely with all the leagues and the Herts FA to make sure we can get back to football in a safe and fun way as soon as we can. We'll update you in the coming weeks as we know more.

Behind the scenes there has actually been a lot going on and with the help of our groundsman, Nick Butcher, work on replacing the AstroTurf on our AWP is due to commence next week and be fully re-laid and ready to go from the 29th March. The current surface has been down for over 10 years and was in urgent need of replacement, so having this break has provided the opportunity to bring forward the works. Everyone who plays on the new surface will really notice the difference and I'm sure they'll all love it. The other main benefit of this is that we now hope to put on more events over the summer as well and having the AWP available will really help with what we can offer. We'd like to get as much on there as we can and will be looking at how we can use it best to make sure everyone has an opportunity to play if they would like to.

We're also due to invest in some new portable Floodlights for more flexibility with matches and provide more opportunities to play in early evenings where we can.



On top of all that, I can tell you we've got a new milkshake maker in the Kiosk as well!! - and we're sure post-match milkshakes will go down well once it's warmed up a bit.

Football matters aside, we've been looking at our processes and operations and are looking to increase the number of trustees on the Club Committee to widen the oversight and expertise we have. We're very fortunate to have passionate and dedicated trustees who offer their services voluntarily to ensure Harvesters can continue to maintain its excellent reputation and football offering. As part of this we are currently looking for a new trustee to provide expertise and knowledge on player welfare, so if you are interested in helping or know someone who might be, please get in touch.

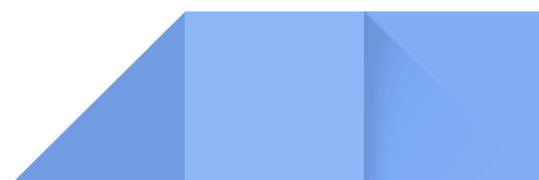
We can also let you all know that we'll be freezing the prices for next year's subscriptions which will be due from May. Should any of you have any problems paying the memberships, in particular if your income has been affected by Covid, please contact us.

Finally, just to say, it's time to get match fit! So I'd like to encourage all our members to get out exercising as much as you can. I've seen a lot of you out there in your Harvesters training tops and it's been brilliant to see. A special mention goes out to Sam and Seb from our U8s teams who ran over 200km in 30 days and managed to raise £5,000 for the World Land Trust in what was an amazing effort!! So get out, have fun and wear the badge and we'll see you all very soon!

Best wishes

Mark Kelly

Chair - Harvesters FC



# Coaching Content Online

Led by **Craig Budge**

## Busy coaches keeping everyone active!

We have been trying to keep all of our members active with different online content and activities during the lockdown period. We know it is a tough time for all with homeschooling, working from home and general apathy. The end is now in sight with such an amazing vaccination programme but please see the link below with some of our online content.

<https://www.harvestersfc.co.uk/videos/lockdown-30-165962.html>

## Club Planning 2021

Harvesters FC currently has over 600 registered players across the age groups from 5-18. We have over 100 volunteers who help to ensure that the club is managed on the pitch and that the boys and girls can enjoy their football. We then have a small team of committee volunteers who help to shape and decide the future of the club and the month on month running and assist the small team of paid staff in keeping everything moving on a day by day basis. We have to be organised in everything that we do to try and give our members the best offering that we can.

Can we please ask that if you love what we do at Harvesters, enjoy the coaching or think our pitches are great (when we are legally allowed to play!) please tell people about us and encourage them to reach out to join us! We are always looking for people to help us on our committees, new coaches to expand the team and new players for the teams across the age groups for boys and girls. Contact [jess.austin@harvestersfc.co.uk](mailto:jess.austin@harvestersfc.co.uk) and she will be able to direct the queries to the correct people.

<https://www.harvestersfc.co.uk/d/documents.html>

Sometimes all good things must come to an end and if your time as a Harvesters member/player is running out please have a chat with one of us, your manager, coach or Jess above and we will ensure that everything is made as simple as possible for stepping away from the club and hopefully continuing elsewhere.





## Club Profile

### Andy Parker - Vice Chair - Harvesters FC

Andy has stepped into the position of Vice Chair at the club alongside his coaching duties at Harvesters FC. Andy has a long history with the club as he played from a Colt through into his teenage years and then came back to start his coaching journey. As if that wasn't enough Andy now manages to combine the Vice chair role, along with coaching and a job!! Understandably most of Andy's free time is taken up by Harvesters FC so we are very lucky that he likes it at Smallford!