

Chairman's Report - May 2008

At the end of another great season for Writtle Minors it's good to be able to sit back and reflect on what **YOU** have achieved this season.

There were people who thought we would not be playing on our new field (myself included at times) but due to great efforts and help from a good number of people we managed to complete it ready for the start of the season. So firstly my thanks to all those who dug holes, mixed cement, moved sleepers put posts up (and helped take them down recently) marked out pitches etc. That was a real team effort and we can always do with more volunteers. As the old adage of many hands make light work was again demonstrated to be true. The last few weeks has also seen volunteers painting the new stakes for use at the sides of all the pitches next year. So as you see there is always something to do and all offers of help are gratefully received.

As well as the new field it's also been a great year for the teams – with 5 winning their division (on those league tables published) and another 3 finishing in the top 3. There was one team relegated but I am sure that is just an opportunity to grow stronger next season and as long as all the children are enjoying it that is the most important part.

As well as the managers and coaches who do a great job running the teams we have many people who help to run the club and there are going to be several new people for next season. As it continues to grow the role of the secretary is now going to be split in two with a fixture secretary, Simon Webb and the club secretary Helen Potton as well as the girl's secretary Ken Ellis and Sally Coughlan as registration secretary. Stepping down this year are Simon Murray, Lois Bowser, Dave Grimsey and Jim Wright and a big thanks to those for the great enthusiasm and hard work they have put in over the years.

Also during the year we filled a couple of newer posts with the child protection officer having a slightly wider role as the welfare officer, Victoria Free. A training course coordinator Kevin Free both these positions can be particularly difficult as getting people to commit to dates with so much else going on is very hard and needs the help of us all to make it work. On that front once again Writtle Minors are at the fore front of a new training plan by Essex FA where there is now going to be a stepping stone from level 1 to level 2 for coaching children and even to a level 3 for the same thing, August 9th is the date, speak to Kevin to see if there are any places left for managers/coaches.

We are also changing the way we hold the old fun day (wasn't fun last year) and this year it is OUR football tournament. It is going to be split in to 2 parts with the girl's teams and boys under 8s in the morning and the rest of the boy's teams who wanted to take part in the afternoon. I think my biggest concern is making sure the teams stick to the playing times (Perry) and clear the field and parking area before the afternoon teams arrive.

On to the future, I hope the first of our port-a-cabins will be up and running for the start of next season and we are still looking for another one that will be right for us. We have got an ex official from Writtle Minors on the WSSC as the blue sky project lead, Lois Bowser, so any ideas re what the club could benefit from please pass to her. I am still hopeful for movement on the astro surface and I hope the drainage will be completed during the summer, ready for another season, so we can do it all again.

Cheers

David Beckett
Chairman WMFC