



## Season Review 2007/08

Dear all,

Its been another interesting season both on and off the pitch at Cadbury Athletic.

To briefly reflect its been a season which has seen us in contention once again for trophies across all our age groups. A season that has seen a few coming and goings on the managerial front. A season where we managed to secure some important sponsorship deals and a season that has seen our first ex Cadbury Athletic player both play and score in the F.A Premier league.

Our small sided teams from under 7's through to under 10's have all competed strongly and admirably in their respective divisions. Congratulations to managers Ed Morris (U7'S) Alan Beale (U8'S) Jim Kelly (U9'S) Andy O'Keefe (U10'S) and their appointed coaches and assistants for their efforts and perseverance throughout the season.

The Under 11's finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in division one, under 12's **won** the Premier division title and finished **runners up** in the Open cup, and our Under 13's completed the season mid table in their premier division. The under 14's were **runners up** in division 3 and cup semi finalists whilst the under 15's **won** the league cup were runners up in the open cup and were 4<sup>th</sup> placed in the premier division. They also triumphed on tour in Prestatyn by running out **winner**s of the SCI Tournament. The under 16's finished the season off magnificently after nearly disbanding half way through by finishing runners up in a very closely fought Open cup **Final**. The under 18's were third in the Stourport league and were the first Cadbury Athletic team to reach the Quarter Final of the Birmingham County Cup. A brilliant achievement from all the respective managers, Noel Clarke, Nigel Watson, Lee Reeves, Terry Venables, Mark Stewart, Paul Hull, Mick Keenan and of course all their dedicated assistants and coaches.

I would also like to mention that in our senior section whose first team reached the final of the Endsleigh challenge cup in the Midland Comb. These successes ensure that Cadbury Athletic FC still remains a major football force within the Local community.

We managed to secure three team sponsors this season in the form of **SB Property Development** purchasing kit for the under 11's, **McDonalds (Northfield)** for the under 12's and the **Northfield Shopping Centre** for the under 15's who have also become official team sponsors of the senior first team!

A huge thank you goes out to all the sponsors for their generosity. This relieves the club of some financial pressure which in turn keeps the players weekly subs to a minimum. If you know of somebody or a company that would like to sponsor a Cadbury team next season please contact me direct.

In previous years I have often made reference to the fact that professional clubs come scouting and 'cherry pick' our best players. This year I am pleased to report on two success stories regarding ex Cadbury Athletic players that have been through the academy system.

Sixteen year old Luke Hubbins who played for Cadbury Athletic from under 9's through to under 13's before signing for Birmingham City F.C has actually made several appearances for the Blues reserves this season, a great achievement and talent for his age. And Nineteen year old former Cadbury Athletic player Daniel Sturridge who had spells at Aston Villa and Coventry City academies before eventually signing for Manchester City forced his way into the first team this season and scored his first premiership goal against Derby County. An excellent achievement for both players and a compliment to this club, where they both started their football careers.

We had two managers step down from their positions this season. Adrian Groves and Brad Harrison have both been associated with the club for several years and have contributed a great deal of time and effort into running their respective teams of which the club is extremely grateful and wishes them all the best for the future. Under 18's manager Mick Keenan who had been with his team since they were under 9's has come to the end of his time with Cadbury Athletic FC. Mick and his team have been great ambassadors for the club, by always conducting themselves in a professional and sportsmanship like manner. Mick will be greatly missed for his dedication and enthusiasm and we hope that someday, he will return and make his services available to the club again.

On a final note I would obviously like to thank everyone connected with the club from committee members to the dedicated managers, coaches, assistants and parent helpers for contributing and making available their biggest and most priceless asset to Cadbury Athletic FC, Which of course is their own '**personal time**'. Without this commitment the club would not continue season after season in being the prestigious football club that it now become.

Andy Clarke  
Chairman  
Cadbury Athletic Juniors F.C