

Chairman's Report 2006/07

The past season proved to be a very challenging one for many of our teams as they attempted to build upon the previous season's remarkable successes and accumulation of trophies. I am pleased to report that in general it has been another successful year for Cadbury Athletic Football Club with all our age groups competing and acquitting themselves well in their respective leagues by showing great enthusiasm and attitude.

I don't intend to mention each teams achievements in my report as this was covered by the managers at there respective presentation evenings. However I would like to point out that the vast majority of our teams are now playing at the highest level in the Central Warwickshire league competing in either division one or the premier league of there respective age groups which is a credit to all concerned.

On not such a positive note it concerns me to mention that we have seen a disturbing and growing problem this season involving *parent behaviour* from certain teams towards referee's and the opposition which has resulted in 3 separate disciplinary hearings and the club incurring heavy fines .

Supporting your team is emotional enough, supporting your flesh and blood is a more passionate commitment still. We can be at our most irresponsible over those we are most responsible for, at our blindest about those we are supposed to be watching over. Young footballers have got to be taught to respect referees by their parents, and parents have got to start by showing respect to referees themselves and if not respect, lip-zipping tolerance would be a start.

For the next season and beyond this is an issue that we will be taking a firm stance on and one that needs eradicating for the sake of the players and the future of the club. The club has produced a leaflet titled '**One Voice**' which all parents should have received a copy of from their team manager, We urge all parents to read and take note as we are under scrutiny next season from the football authorities. Whilst we continue to encourage parents to play a positive role in supporting their child's football experience they have a strong responsibility for their own behaviour which we intend to monitor closely in the future.

In October 2006 Cadbury Athletic Junior Football club ran their inaugural football development week for children from the club and the local community and were pleased to welcome 55 children aged from 6 to 13 to join us for 3 days of football and fun. Each day was structured to provide each child with a balance of lunchtime quizzes, technical skills coaching, individual challenges, and competitive team games. Over the 3 days, the children took part in the likes of Penalty prize, American shootouts, and footballing ten pin, as well as taking on the names of their favourite teams to compete in FA Cup, Champions League and World Cup team games. Despite some challenging weather it was a resounding success for both the children and the club with some great individual contributions and great characters adding their mark to the week. For the children it provided a week away from the challenges of their various league programmes, and allowed them to express themselves and have fun, for the club it meant we raised £1000 towards future funding of club expenses, new kits etc.

Our thanks go first and foremost to the children and parents without whom this would not have been the success it was. Having seen that we can successfully run a course of this type, we plan to repeat the event again this year and hope to be able to offer more places to attract a wider audience..... So tell your friends!!

On behalf of everyone at the club, a very big Thank You to Nigel Watson (Cadbury Athletic Football Development Officer) who gave up a great deal of time in organising and overseeing this event and to everyone who was involved in this first for Cadburys.

As happens every season the academies coming hunting for our best players! And this season has been no different. The most recent signings being Aidan Doherty, Tom Ritson and Josh Martin (under 8's) all joining Birmingham City F.C and Nick Smith (under 14's) joining Walsall F.C. These players join a host of Cadbury Athletic players who before them are now on contracts at local professional clubs academies , We wish them all best and congratulate there respective C.A.F.C managers and coaches who have played a major part in nurturing them to this level. Where would these academies be without us???

A thank you goes out to our departing Managers Colin O'Toole and Wayne Richards (under 10 colts) for their efforts and commitment during their time at the club, And a special thanks to Steve Partridge (under 16's) who has finally come to the end of his time at Cadbury Athletic after 8 years of loyal service and dedication ! We wish him all the best for the future.

Training commences for next seasons under 7's from Sunday May 20th so spread the word amongst family and friends as we are now on the look out for players. As the club grows we are always looking for parents keen to help, especially if you have a fund raising idea, please let us know. I am confident that the club will continue to go from strength to strength with all your help.

I would like to remind all parents that the clubs AGM is Tuesday 5th June at 7.30 pm in the pavilion on Bournville Lane All are welcome! Again as we are keen to encourage new faces with new ideas and enthusiasm.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Management Committee, managers, coaches and assistants for their efforts during this season. Without their continued commitment and enthusiasm the club would not be in the good position that it is today.

Andy Clarke

Chairman

Cadbury Athletic Juniors F.C