**Newsletter No 12-Winter 2020/21**

**Season 2020/21**

I think we can all agree that this season has been anything but normal! We have attempted to play and train as much as the Government and FA would allow us and I would like to thank all of you who have been following the Risk Assessment we prepared a few months ago.

We are hoping that there will not be any more Covid restrictions placed on grassroots football in the coming months and we can play and train as normal. Please continue to follow the social distance rules imposed on us to avoid any complaints by Eccleston Council that we are not following guidance.

**Presentation Day 2021**

Last seasons Presentation Day had to be cancelled but we are making plans for this year. I have been in touch with De la Salle to see if we can hold the event at the school but, as yet, they have no idea when examinations etc will be taking place. We will let you all know the date as soon as it has been agreed.

**Teams**

Sadly this season one of our teams have had to fold due to lack of players but on the positive side we started 3 Under 7 teams and have enough youngsters in our Year 1 Skills to start 3 more teams next season. This year we welcomed two new girls teams who joined us from another club and we also started two new girls teams (under 9 and Under 13). The difficult bit is that we are now having to put youngsters on a waiting list for some of our age groups but with over 400 youngsters we just have not got the facilities to expand any more.

**Fees for 2020/21**

We decided to keep the fees down to £144 per year in 2020/21 and, due to the saving in winter training fees in November lockdown, the fees will remain the same in 2021/22.

Some parents have, understandably, asked why we did not stop fees in November. We work out our budgets based on an annual fee of £144 and then give various options for payment. The vast majority of our costs did not change during the recent lockdown. In a “normal” year the fees do not cover all our costs and we are reliant on sponsors and grants to help us balance the books. Please be assured that we are not looking to make any surplus in running the club and all the committee and coaches give many hours of voluntary time to help all our youngsters enjoy playing football (they even have to buy their own kit!).

**Social Media, Facebook, website etc**

Please be aware of the Club’s policy on social media posts as we follow the FA’s strictly guidance on this issue.

We have a Bleak Hill Rovers Facebook page so if you are a user of Facebook, please can I encourage you to make friend with us (if that’s the right expression!)

If you wish to post any part of matches or pictures, please be aware that we have players in some teams who have not given permission for their pictures to be shown on Social Media.

We also have a website at www.bleakhillrovers.com which has a lot of information about the Club and also has a link to our Club shop. The club gets a small donation for everything bought through the webshop.

Please feel free to get in touch with me or any of the coaches at any time if there is anything you wish to know or ask about the club.

**PR**

If you have any PR experience and can help us in the New Year with a small project, please will you email me on the address shown below.

**Thanks**

I would like to express thanks to all the coaches and helpers who have worked tirelessly in 2020 to help over 400 youngsters enjoy playing football despite the difficult period we have been going through.

Can I wish you all a Happy Christmas (as far as possible) and a prosperous New Year.

Cyril Barratt (cbarratt@blueyonder.co.uk)

Chairman