Racing Club Warwick Football Club

21/07/2015

Dear Councillor Mobbs,

Racing Club Warwick FC - A New Beginning

I am writing to you in my capacity as the newly elected Chairman of Racing Club Warwick to bring you up to date with developments at the Club.

Firstly, at our AGM on 12th of July this year, the club elected a new committee comprised as follows:

Gary Vella (Chairman), Phil Haycock (Vice-Chairman), Robert Horley (Treasurer), Alison Scandrett (Secretary), Ruth Vella (General Manager), Debi O'Hare (Committee), Tim O'Hare (Committee), Andy Gelfs (Committee).

The Four Trustees of the Club will be reviewed, and replaced where agreed, at the next Committee meeting in August. I will inform you of the changes as soon as they happen.

I enclose a copy of our constitution for your information.

Secondly, the new Committee wants to develop a new and better relationship with the Council. Although not involved personally, I am conscious of the very negative relationship that there has been over the past few years between the Council and the Club. No one has benefited from it, a fact I understand that you also believe to be true. The new Committee want to change this negative relationship and work with the Council for the benefit of the local community, the Club and the Council. The recent relationship has only served to spoil attempts to work together, affecting the valuable service that the Club offers, but, I am confident from the meetings and discussions over the past few weeks, that our relationship will thrive moving forward and we can once again return the Club to a vital hub to the community. The members are fully aware of the change in position and are eager to see the Club back on the map.

Thirdly, we understand what the Council wants to achieve for the local sporting world, and for the local community in health and well-being and in community development terms. We wish to develop the Club in a similar way for the immediate local area in Warwick in which we serve. The Club therefore can act as an agent for the Council in many ways and in return the Council can help the Club return to its roots as an organisation serving the local community. I set out here what we are currently doing for the community as an indication of the route we wish to travel along. As I alluded to we intend to return the Club into a thriving community hub for all ages by supplying various activities each week. We have already restarted darts, pool, crib and domino teams as well as weekly bingo. We have a regular bottle club (who exchange old bottles and other memorabilia once a month) as well as our member bar on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. We intend extending opening to every night.
We provide a function room for parties of all types and have in the last three month started a music night with the intention of supporting local talent. We provide Christmas, Bonfire and Presentation parties for the Children in our now thriving Junior Football section.
We need to increase these activities but also provide new activities such as coffee mornings, keep fit classes, indoor bowls , yoga, IT classes, children's holiday clubs and more.

Our junior football section consists of 8 teams, aged from 7-16, with plans to start new teams. There are over 130 children who now play for Racing Club Warwick Juniors and it is clear that we are becoming THE club to entrust your children with. We held our first Junior football festival on the 23rd May 2015 and had over 40 junior teams and over 1000 children and parents attending on the day.

We have a Mini – Racers football section to introduce children to football and community activity from ages 4-7. This is run on Saturday mornings with our experienced coaches. We also, of course, have our Floodlit Youth Team and our first team. The last fixture of the season, saw over 220 people attend versus Bromsgrove, which is the biggest attendance for several years. The level of football the Club plays at, is a perfect foil for those not quite at the level that Leamington play at, and this gives the children and

young adults of Warwick, and the district as a whole, an ideal, and probably quite unique opportunity, to play football at differing, but high levels of football, according to their ability.

Fourthly, and in addition to the third point, the Council and the Club have a relationship as landowner and tenant and we believe that it is vital that if these points are to be realised that both organisations need to work together to improve the facilities, which can help put the club on a financially sustainable basis and to deliver the activities that the local community vitally needs. To that end, we would want to work up a business plan with the Council which can be used to secure financial resources from other bodies, e.g. Football Association, King Henry 8th Charity, as well as some financial help from the Council to help us towards our goals. I will ensure that any financial resource will be properly invested and recorded accordingly. Some recent research has shown that the social return on investment for an average community football club indicates that for every £1 spent to run a club, there is at least £4.40 return in social value in terms of increased social connectedness, wellbeing, and mental health status, employment outcomes, personal development, physical health, Civic pride and support of other community groups. We, at Racing Club Warwick, will ensure we become a vital community hub for many years to come and make people proud to be associated with us and our partners.

Finally, some resources, as you witnessed on your recent visit, are needed urgently if the Club is to be able to continue effectively in the short term and we hope that the Council can assist us in this respect, as you have indicated. The issues that need to be addressed, as a matter of urgency, are the old buildings removal which then requires tarmacking and fencing to provide boundaries, new changing rooms to replace the temporary cabins that the club were left with several years back, and of course, the upgrade of the floodlighting that we discussed during your visit. Hopefully all of this work can be authorised as part of the 'Stages' that have been outlined by Jaspal Rai.

I will forward a copy of latest set of accounts to demonstrate our financial position and you will see the Club is stable but that we do also require an additional revenue stream, on top of the vital ground works mentioned above, to flourish. You will be aware that our plans to open a children's nursery will solve this problem but the Club needs an injection of around £20k to cover some immediate costs and cosmetic upgrades until the nursery revenue kicks in later in the year. The community deserve something for their loyalty, which has been ignored in the past, and, as we start adding more and more members it is vital that the right impression and comfort are given. A lick of paint and new chairs and tables would go a long way in reviving the Clubs image and status. We also have a number of minor repairs to toilets, dugouts, fencing, plumbing, locks etc, all which are important in giving the community the basics.

The breakdown of the £20k injection is as follows: repairs to dugouts £600, pitch fencing £450, roof repair on stands and seating £800, toilets and hand dryers £500, security locks and shutters £1,000, plumbing £450, new tables and chairs/decorating £3000, setting up the nursery including fencing and play items for an outside play area £3,500. Around £10,000 will give us some cash flow for 5 months until we increase our income through the nursery and other community ventures.

The Club needs an income of around £2000 a month to cover costs and since October 2014 we have achieved this, but, it leaves nothing for maintenance at this stage. We are determined to make this work but it will be a lot easier if we have some help and support from the council initially.

I will look forward to hearing from you on the start of a new and prosperous relationship for all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Vella
Racing Club Warwick FC Chairman