



Chairman's Report -2020-21

In my plans I certainly hadn't contemplated being in a position where I would still be here in this role at this time however I am and happy to still support our dedicated team to continue providing and improving the ongoing opportunities in football development for all of you.

My season last year, my last as a manager and coach was somewhat curtailed and the swan song not quite achieved and I appreciate for many of you it has been a significantly challenging time over 2 seasons both personally and from a footballing perspective. As the football environment starts to support the return to normality the Club remains strong both organisationally and financially with opportunities and initiatives in place to further enhance our position and stability.

One of the initiatives the Club has been involved with and I personally have spent a significant amount of time over the past 10 years is the development on High Royds. The original scheme and project we were working on as part of the High Royds Sports Association (HRSA), which had acquired funding from the Football Foundation has unfortunately now been stopped. The HRSA Board eventually voted to not continue with the project for a number of reasons. These included the uncertainty of the current hospitality environment with the business case impact of the current pandemic and future effect on functions/events, the risk of the build cost with the preferred contractor who were significantly cheaper than all other quotes and relatively inexperienced and also the FF drawing close on the grant.

Whilst this was incredibly disappointing for the club and me personally there is still some light at the end of the tunnel. Avant Homes have still a planning obligation to provide a 'social club' and in conjunction with the estate residents committee are attempting to develop a smaller scheme on the same site which includes a set of changing rooms. At this stage we are not directly involved nor are other partners formerly of HRSA but we have been involved in meetings, contributed to the design and discussions around taking responsibility the pitch elements of High Royds. Avant should be taking the design to planning quite imminently and we will hopefully continue to be updated. In the meantime, we will continue to look at and appraise other potential opportunities for development, access and improvement to further enhance Guiseley Juniors.

May I finally take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and commitment in delivering exceptional footballing opportunities to our community.

Chris Spargo
Club Chairman