

2023/24 Chairman's End of Season Report



I hope everyone has had a great season and achieved their goals be it in performance, participation, player development, fun, or just pure enjoyment and are now looking forward to some rest, recuperation, and the Euro's later this month.

The club continues to go from strength to strength with player numbers for both boys and girls and our overall quality of delivery, and work continues in all aspects of club development, including a new plan, to support our coaches and volunteers to deliver on their requirements with administration, qualifications, equipment, training, and match opportunities. This has included securing new venues for matches and training and the waiting list is constantly growing – hence the need for a new training/match venue facility.

One of the key elements of our ongoing club development we have been continually working on is the potential new artificial turf pitch provision (ATP) at Guiseley School. As a Management Team we have been working with a range of partners to try and secure this new training and match venue, a facility that we would call as 'home' and something that would help consolidate our training and match day provision.

For those new to the club or not aware the project has been developed as a partnership with Guiseley School (Part of the Aireborough Learning partnership - 10 school membership) and whilst there are other partners involved including the Football Foundation, WRCFA, Ilkley Town, community foundations of Leeds Utd and Bradford City etc – the school, and ourselves are the prime partners and the partners providing the capital investment which will be supported by the grant from the Football Foundation. The scheme value is currently just under £1m (about £700k when we started the project) which has increased following delays in planning and current cost of construction/materials.

The current status of the project is significantly further forward than it was last year particularly with regard to planning which is now approved (albeit taking 97 weeks) and our final bid goes to the Football Foundation Board on 18 July 2024, having progressed successfully through a range of stages to date. As the construction price has increased partners have had to provide additional financial support but we have also secured additional match funding from the FF subject to their Board approval. If approved the construction programme has been scheduled to run in tandem with the Board decision and should commence in August with the pitch being available to use from January 2025.

The proposal represents a significant investment into existing sports facilities in the area with the aim of increasing participation in sport, catering for smaller-sided football games and youth facilities, as well as supporting enhanced community use for local professional clubs. This meets both a strategic need as well as a local need.

The location of the pitch is the lower part of the Guiseley School Fields provision which I'm sure most of you will be aware, and can be seen on the attached plan which includes the pitch layout.

The pitch development will cater for 11 v11, 9v9 , 7v7 and 5v5 and will also incorporate additional markings for rugby as the pitch will be fitted with a shock pad to cater for rugby training and games. Access will be provided from the school grounds to enable the use of car parking and the new changing provision.

We will continue to progress this development as it provides a significant opportunity to improve our training and match day provision in terms of quality, space and availability and enables us to grow, excel and sustain ongoing future development.

2023/24 Chairman's End of Season Report



We will keep you up to date with progress as we don't want to miss out on another fantastic opportunity – keep enjoying your football.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'C. Spargo'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Chris Spargo
Club Chairman