

2025/26 Chairman's End of Season Report



Welcome

I hope everyone has had a great and enjoyable season. Whether you are new to the club or part of the 'old guard' I hope you have achieved your anticipated goals, be it in performance, participation, player development, fun, or just pure enjoyment and now looking forward to some rest, recuperation, and a short summer break (with an interruption of some small football tournament in North America!!)

The club continues to go from strength to strength with player numbers both boys and girls and our overall quality of delivery, financial sustainability and work continues in all aspects of club development, and I am immensely proud of the ongoing effort, commitment and achievements of all volunteers at committee and team level as always. After 18 years in this role, it never ceases to amaze me the amount of time and effort committee members, team managers, coaches and other volunteers contribute in order to make this club the success it has been and currently is. Thank you.

Club Development

Well, having reported for the past few years of an impending new ATP at Guiseley School this year we have eventually delivered it with it being operational from September 2025. For those that have played on it, coached, spectated or even popped down to see it will all hopefully all agree it's a fabulous facility. It is a facility that is an accredited Lionesses Future Fund Project (one of only 30 nationally) that is required to ensure growth in Women's and Girls football is prioritised on an annual basis and will be a key performance indicator for us in the continuation of scheme funding.

We have a 'Collaboration Agreement' agreement with Guiseley School (as part of the Aireborough Learning Partnership Trust) that provides the security of our partnership, supporting our investment and ongoing access and usage. As part of this we are represented on the 'Steering Group' that meets quarterly to review progress against funding criteria, oversees operational delivery and plans for ongoing and future usage in order to maximise the benefit for ourselves, other partners and the wider community.

We still have the challenge of dealing with the closure of St Mary's when the original plan was to supplement provision with our new pitch as the demand far exceeds supply in the area. It also limits our ongoing plans for development and accommodating the ever-increasing waiting list however it will be short-term as the St Mary's School redevelopment includes the replacement of the pitch. This is likely not to be ready for at least the next 2 seasons. The programme and allocation have been approved by the Steering Group for next season 2026/27.

Having completed a reasonable term in this role of 18 years (19 years at the club), and 12 years as a Manager/Coach it is time for me to step down as Chairman. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Guiseley Juniors and am very proud of what as a team we have achieved. I have worked with some amazing people, seen the club treble in size including the incredible development of girls football, had a few hurdles and obstacles to navigate to ensure the sustainability and effective governance of the club (which often made things interesting 😊) and ultimately immensely proud of being part of the Team that delivered the partnership with Guiseley School with a fabulous state of the art ATP facility.

I feel the club remains in safe hands and will continue to go from strength to strength. Keep enjoying your football and best regards for the future.

Chris Spargo - Club Chairman