



SUTTON UNITED YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**THE BOROUGH SPORTS GROUND
GANDER GREEN LANE
SUTTON SURREY SM1 2EY**

Sutton United Youth and Community Foundation is an independent charity registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission. Registration number 1178888 A full list of current trustees can be found at the Charity Commission.

**Trustees' Annual Report
for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021**



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Objectives and Activities

The Foundation was formed in 2018, consolidating some of the already established Community programmes at Sutton United Football Club to ensure that further activities could be provided to the Community through shared passion, vision and expertise.

Our main objective continues to aim to provide public benefit to the Community (Sutton and its adjoining boroughs) through Community participation in healthy recreational activities.

To achieve this objective, we continue our focus on providing the necessary facilities and support, primarily centred at or close to Sutton United FC, but also by direct engagement with the Community where they live.

The Foundation has always strived to provide a safe and secure environment and we continue to ensure we have an open policy on participation.

There are no barriers to entry by reason of age, ethnicity, gender or ability, nor are the local community prevented from joining due to difficult financial or social circumstances; everyone is welcome to come along and be part of their Community and hopefully improve their wellbeing.

In their ongoing operation of the Foundation the Trustees continue to have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and are committed to ensuring this is upheld.

Achievements and Performance

We have continued to provide those activities which were the bedrock of the first steps taken since 2018 under an agreed framework.



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The Trustees' skills and expertise continue to be utilised to develop a more cohesive and established range of community activities. The Trustees continue to look at all avenues and ways of reaching out further into the Community.

Covid-19

The ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic significantly impacted the Foundation's ability to provide a full range of offerings to the local Community.

At the start of the financial year the Government began to ease restrictions through July and August 2020 which enabled us to recommence activities which had been curtailed due to enforced lockdown. However, the Government imposed further sporadic lockdowns over the course of the next few months, with the full lifting of restrictions not occurring until July 2021. During this prolonged period of restrictions, many of the Foundation's activities were forcibly curtailed.

We were able to recommence some of our activities in April 2021 following the lifting of certain restrictions, but many activities were simply hibernated until it was safe to restart. Significant planning and strategic work was carried out by the Trustees to enable the Foundation to return to a full programme of activities in the autumn of 2021.

Walking Football for the over 55's

We continued to provide, where safe to do so within the Covid-19 guidance, a twice-weekly session on Monday nights and Wednesday mornings hosted by Stephen Preedy, who plays for one of our Pan-Disability Teams.

With an established group of over 20 men taking part, with all ages over 55 being represented up to and including those in their 80's, strong bonds and friendships have been made, as well as the obvious health benefits being achieved through participation.

Throughout the pandemic those who participate have continued to use those bonds and friendships to ensure that people were well and were looking forward to a return to playing when it was permitted.



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The sessions were temporarily suspended at the end of May 2021 when Sutton United FC, the Foundation's affiliated football club, were promoted to the English Football League and the ground had to undergo significant reconstruction to meet the EFL's requirements.

The Foundation managed to source a new location by building a relationship with Cheam Sports Club and since the sessions recommenced there has been a positive response to the new location and new links within the community have been formed.

We are continuing to look at ways to grow this activity further and ideally we would like to increase the number of participants to around 40.

We have also considered introducing walking football for women, should there be an interest in forming such a group within the community.

Pan-Disability Football

This area continues to be one where there remains huge interest and under the inspiring leadership of Steve King, one of our Trustees, we now have four teams who train weekly on Saturday mornings with varying levels of learning disabilities and mild physical disabilities.

There are currently over 40 players participating, with regular games and tournaments for all teams.

All teams attend matches at the Surrey Football for All League, playing in a round robin of matches against other teams.

The overwhelming majority of participants stated that their personal fitness has improved since they started playing, as has their self-esteem, confidence, general health and social interaction.



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We have four volunteers who help run this programme, one of whom works as our Special Educational Needs Schools Liaison officer, with a remit to forge relationships with schools in the borough and encourage pupils to come and play at Sutton United.

With very limited opportunities to actually play football during the second half of 2020 and the first half of 2021 due to the pandemic, the section planned for a return to playing in the autumn of 2021.

Again, with the changes being made at Sutton United's ground in the close season, this section too has relocated to Cheam Sports Club for pre-season training. Initial feedback from those training is very positive and the new venue seems to have met with approval from the teams and from management.

The section continues to inspire and engage and remain a flag bearer for Pan-Disability Football and inclusion.

We have always been very proud of the work that has been done by Steve King, his coaches and the players to establish the Pan-Disability section as one of the most admired set-ups in the south of England and we are delighted that Steve himself is well respected within the walls of Surrey FA for all the passion and effort he freely gives.

Special Needs Schools Outreach Programme

We continued to provide a Special Needs Schools Outreach Programme for the Carew Manor Academy in Wallington.

Enrichment sessions are carried on at the school on Thursdays throughout the academic year, with currently 12 boys and 2 girls attending.

The sessions are not solely devoted to football and the children can choose from a variety of activities offered, though most choose football as that seems to resonate best with them.



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The participants have found that the sessions, well delivered and organised, have improved their self-esteem, confidence, social interaction and, above all, their fitness.

Our plans to expand this offering to other Special Needs Schools in the Community are still being looked at, with the hope that ultimately we can develop a Children's Disability squad with a view to linking younger members of the Community with our successful Pan-Disability offering.

The normal programme of sessions was carried out in the autumn of 2020 before being suspended in line with the Government's advice for schools in December 2020. We were able to recommence the programme in April 2021 before the sessions were again stopped due to restrictions being operated in schools to combat high Covid-19 infections amongst children.

The sessions recommenced in September 2021 at the start of the new academic year.

Girls Development Football

This is an area in which we believe that we can really grow Community participation and help school-age girls have a healthy lifestyle.

The programme runs on a Monday night throughout the academic year for girls from six years old up to 11.

These sessions have led to an increased take-up, with some 30 to 40 girls regularly participating, with over 50% of them also representing teams on a Sunday.

The Monday sessions are based on healthy participation and having fun and those attending enjoy the coaching and urge their friends to come along too.

We have also investigated offering sessions for those aged 11-16 and hope to be able to roll that out in 2021/2022 subject to any restrictions being lifted for Covid-19.



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The sessions have again been significantly impacted by the pandemic and with high numbers of children testing positive we were only able to run 18 of these sessions during the school academic year.

Girls Football

The Girls football season was curtailed in the autumn of 2020 with lockdowns all but rendering the ability to finish a season impossible and a decision to stop was inevitable.

Our hope is that we can build on this in the coming year and involve more community participation. Our new Head of Foundation has significant knowledge and expertise in this area.

Schools Football

The 2020/2021 schools football season was cancelled by the schools to ensure that they could control and deal with the ongoing pandemic and ensure safety for all children within the normal academic setting.

Financial Review

Throughout the year to 30 June 2021, we operated with minimal funding and donations.

However, we managed to control money and use it effectively to run our Community offering and programmes during a difficult time. We continued to rely heavily on our dedicated team of unpaid volunteers.

Our financial information, with details of how and where we have spent our money, is contained within the annual accounts on the Charity Commission's website.

We had £5,044 (2020: £13,142) left in the bank to continue our work at the year end and this amount is sufficient to meet our present financial commitments.

The Trustees considered the impact of Covid-19 on our programme of activity and, whilst there were significant restrictions and curtailments which temporarily stopped our



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programme, in the long term we are confident of considerable growth and development, particularly with Sutton United now being a Football League club.

The Trustees have met regularly to monitor and react to the latest advice and work out how best to ensure we remained engaged in the community and ready to restart all our programmes as soon as it was safe to do so.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Foundation, which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, is based on the objectives contained in our constitution and on the people involved, their passion, willingness, knowledge and expertise.

During the year new strategies and programmes were considered by the Board of Trustees, and one such area which the Foundation wanted to expand into was the advancement of education of children, young people and the public at large, which required an amendment to the objects set out in the Foundation's constitution.

We have also been making significant structural changes to our operations as a consequence of our affiliated club's promotion to the Football League and we are in constant dialogue with the EFL Trust in that respect. We hope to obtain access to new funding streams in order to build and expand on our existing offerings.

We are governed by a Board of Trustees (maximum 9). The current list can be found on the Charity Commission website, those in office at the date of this report being:

Phillip Hedger – Chairman

Lee Daley – Treasurer

Adrian Barry

Russell Boots-Taylor

Faye Butler

Steve King

Dominic Feltham

Bobby Childs



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The Head of the Foundation is Duncan Muller, who was appointed in September 2021.

We have a large number of volunteers who help us on a day to day basis with the various community programmes - without their help and dedication a lot of our work would simply not happen.

Reference and Administrative details

Please refer to the information at the top of the page.

Finally, and looking forward

We welcome everyone who would like to be involved and appreciate any ideas for fundraising and opportunities to work with other sectors of the Community. If you have any ideas, please get in touch with the Head of Foundation:

Duncan Muller - 020 8644 4440 or by email to duncan.muller@suttonunited.net

We are "United in the Community"

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the Foundation's Trustees on 16 April 2022 ???

Chairman – Phillip Hedger

Treasurer – Lee Daley