



SUTTON UNITED FOUNDATION

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

*Sutton United 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 2021 to 30 June 2022**



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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 a shared passion, vision and expertise.

Our main objectives continue to aim to provide public benefit to the Community (Sutton and its adjoining boroughs) through Community participation in healthy recreational activities, but also to advance the education of children, young people and the public at large by the use of educational programmes, courses and facilities.

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



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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.



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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.

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 Foundation's year began with the full lifting of restrictions on 19 July 2021, and following this we were able to recommence a full programme of activities in the autumn of 2021.



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Walking Football for the over 55's

We re-commenced a weekly session on Wednesday mornings hosted by Stephen Preedy.

With an established group of over 20 participants 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.

We moved our offering to the local Goals football centre, and this has improved the regularity and reliability of the sessions taking place, additionally we have attempted to engage with our fellow EFL community teams to arrange friendly matches for the participants to establish and engage with fellow like-minded individuals. We are also trying to involve those participants on first-team match days to widen and promote the sessions so that we can attempt to grow this offering further over the coming years.



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Pan-Disability Football

This area continues to be one where there remains huge interest and, under the inspiring leadership of Steve King, 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.

During the year all teams attended matches at the Surrey Football for All League, travelling to the venue to play in a round robin of matches against other teams.



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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.

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.

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, 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.



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Special Needs Schools Outreach Programme

We re-commenced our Special Needs Schools Outreach Programme for the Carew Manor Academy in Wallington, in September 2021, following the lifting of all covid-related restrictions which had curtailed this activity in the previous 15 months.

These enrichment sessions re-commenced at the school on Thursdays throughout the academic year, with 12 boys and 2 girls attending. The sessions are not solely devoted to football. The children can choose from a variety of activities offered, though most choose football as that seems to resonate best with them.

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



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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 would be able to develop a Children's Disability squad with a view to linking younger members of the Community with our successful Pan-Disability offering.

Girls Development Football

This is an area in which we believe that we can really grow Community participation and help school-age girls from Under 8 to Under 16 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 extra sessions led to an increased take-up, with some 30 to 40 girls regularly participating, with over 50% of them also representing our teams on a Sunday.



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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 also now have open sessions for those aged 11-16 being carried out and are currently looking to grow these sessions through promotion and engagement with local secondary schools.

Girls Football

We have now fully integrated the girls' section within the Foundation and the 2022/2023 season will be fully operated by the Foundation.

We hope to promote the section fully within the community including engagement with local primary and secondary schools to show what we can offer and how this can help those looking to improve health and wellbeing and the development of new friendship groups within the community.

Financial Review



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We are currently operating with minimal funding and donations, but we are hoping to grow by looking at all avenues of funding available.

We have managed to control money and use it effectively to run our Community offering and programmes. With just one full-time and one part-time employee, we continue to rely heavily on our dedicated team of unpaid volunteers and helpers.

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 £45,799 (2021: £5,044) left in the bank to continue our work at the year end and this amount is sufficient to meet our financial commitments presently, with £25,000 of that money earmarked for our community pavilion development which is nearing approval for construction at the club's stadium and will help bring our community offering under one roof.



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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 area which the Foundation wanted to expand into was the advancement of education of children, young people and the public at large, which required the Foundation to amend its list of objectives.



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We have also continued to make significant structural changes to our operations and board of trustees' responsibilities and we are in constant dialogue with the EFL Trust in that respect.

Most of the changes have been procedural in nature and we do not anticipate stopping any existing activities or programmes, in fact we hope that we will be able to gain new funding to build and expand on our existing offerings.

We are governed by a group of trustees (maximum 9), who are vetted prior to appointment and new trustees are elected at regular meetings of the Foundation. 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
Russell Boots-Taylor
Kaylisha Archer



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Martin Copus
Michael Joyce
Stephen Hyde
Sophie Sargeant
Paul Shiu

We are assisted in these roles by:

Head of **the** Foundation – Bobby Childs
Head Administrator – Calvin Gibson
Secretary – Nigel Griffiths

We also 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.



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Reference and Administrative details

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

The Charity changed its name from Sutton United Youth and Community Foundation to Sutton United Foundation at a meeting of the trustees on 9th January 2023, the change being subsequently approved by the Charity Commission.

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 ~~The~~ Foundation:

Bobby Childs - 020 8644 4440 or by email to bobby.childs@suttonunited.net



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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 11 April 2023**

Chairman – Phillip Hedger

Treasurer – Lee Daley