	Swindon & District Community Football League **134th Annual General Meeting** Coleview Community Centre Wednesday 19th June 2024
Present	**Management Committee :** Pete Mildenhall (PM)- President, Martyn Rosewell (MR)-Chairman, jt cup sec, Mark Parish-Haines (MPH) RAO, Colin Tewkesbury (CT), Registration Secretary, John Luckhurst (JL), League Secretary, Keith White (KW), League Safeguarding Officer, Conor Law (CL)-Governance, Jimmy Horwood (JH), Results and jt cup sec **County FA** : Gretchen Samuelson **Harbour Project** – Tom Bain (joint CEO) **Clubs: (** new clubs***):** Abbeymeads, AFC Harrow*, Bassett Bulldogs, Blunsdon Reserves, Chiseldon, Coleview, Cricklade Reserves, FC Scorpion*, Nalgo Masters (previously Drunken Masters), Lower Stratton, Marlborough Town Development, Moredon, Nationwide, Old Town Athletic*, Poulton, Purton, Ramsbury, Redhouse Reserves*, Ridgeway Rovers*, Shield & Dagger, Spectrum, Stratton Juniors Reserves, Swindon Rovers*, Tidworth Town*, Wroughton Youth*.
Apologies **Committee** **Clubs**	Jeff Willerton (JW)-Treasurer 100 percent attendance

AGENDA

1. Welcome from Peter Mildenhall, League President
2. Apologies – read by Martyn Rosewell, League Chairman
3. Minutes of 2023 A G M – read by Martyn Rosewell, League Chairman
   - To consider any previous Matters/Business Arising
4. Election of Officers and Management Committee
5. Chairman's address
   Guest speaker – Tom Bain joint CEO Harbour Project
6. Treasurers address & Auditors
7. League secretary address
8. League Safeguarding Officer – Address
9. League Governance Officer - Address
10 Referee Appointment Officer Address
   Awarding of Cheque for the Chris Paris-Haines Respect Shields.
11 Election of new clubs to fill vacancies
12 Rule amendments
   2c geographical area covered by competition from 25 to 30 miles
   20 F (i) use of returning substitutes – discuss / vote / div 1? / cup comp?
13 League & ref fees and fines staying the same for 2024-2025, ref fees adjusted 2025-2026
14. Constitution of League for coming Season
14a - Proposed Season 2024-25 dates:
   - Starting: 7th September, 2024 – 21st December, 2024

- Post-Christmas: 4th January 2025 – 25th -April 2025
- County cup dates – To be confirmed
- Pyramid WSL Div 1
- SDFL Cups - format & dates to be discussed

15. The big reveal?
16. Any Other Business
    - 16a - England Accredited Clubs and League initiatives – JL
    - 16b - WGS Updates – County FA
    - 16c – Respect & Player welfare - County FA
    - 16d - County Affiliation new initiatives – Football Festival
    - 17. Awards/2023-24 Roll Of honour

    - Premier Division Winners – Shield & Dagger
    - Division One Winners – Blunsdon Reserves

    - Swindon Challenge Cup winners – Redhouse
    - Don Roger/George Thomas Cup winners – NALGO

    - Junior Referee of the Year – Jake Giles
    - Senior Referee of the Year – Jeremy Moyse
    - Secretary of the Year – Brian Cooper - Poulton
    - Team Fair play award – Premier Division – Chiseldon
        - Team fair play award – Division One – Lower Stratton
    - Premier Division Golden Boot – Cameron Shrubb - Redhouse
    - Division One Golden Boot - Jason Walsh – Ramsbury
    - Raffle
18. Date of Next Annual General Meeting (MR) – Wednesday 18th June 2025 proposed?
    Note new location, SVT Building, Webbswood Stadium, Supermarine

Close

1. President's welcome

Welcome everyone to this our 134th AGM
Firstly, I would like to thank our committee for all the hard work they put in over the last year in making this one of our most successful seasons.
Secondly to all you clubs, for making such a competitive season, the Premier being decided in the last week being hotly contested by 4 teams, even closer in Div One where 5 teams were only separated by 2 points for the runners up spot.
Finally, congratulations to all the winners/runners up in both leagues and cups and the individuals who will receive their awards at the end of the meeting.
Now I will now hand you over to our Chairman, Martyn for the rest of the meeting

2. Apologies

100 % attendance of clubs. Probably the first time that we could remember. Our new Treasurer Jeff Willerton, has had to cancel at the last minute and sends his apologies.

3. Minutes of 2023 AGM

These were accepted as a record of last meeting.
Outstanding issue of rolling substitutes will be addressed later in tonight's meeting under rule amendments.

4. Election of Officers

Vacant Committee posts had been filled with nominees and were elected onto the committee with no objections.
We welcome 2 new Officers
Jeff Willerton as Treasurer
Conor Law as Governance

POSITION	NOMINEE
CHAIRMAN	Martyn Rosewell
SECRETARY	John Luckhurst
TREASURER	Jeff Willerton
REF APPOINTMENTS	Mark Parish-Haines
GOVERNANCE	Conor Law
FIXTURES	Pete Mildenhall
REGISTRATION	Colin Tewkesbury
RESULTS	Jimmy Horwood
CUPS (JOINT)	Martyn Rosewell/Jimmy Horwood
SAFEGUARDING	Keith White
CLUBS LIAISON	Jimmy Horwood
	RETIRED - nil

5. Chairman's address

- Unfortunately, for you, you will be hearing a lot from me tonight. We have a lot to get through, so I will start by thanking the committee, especially our League Secretary, John for his continuous efforts and also Pete for the fixture juggling in 23/24, which enabled us to play the season out without any walkovers.
- Thanks to you clubs and your players, for your patience & commitment given all the weather disruptions, and bringing the season to a close, in one of the closest finishes we've had in a while.
- We all faced additional work with safeguarding and welfare mandates in the light of the changes brought in by the FA, but after a challenging start for some to get affiliated, we managed to get 21 teams over the line to start the season in September. Apart from Highworth Town Reserves, that is, who pulled out 2 weeks before the season started due to a lack of players.
- You will hear later from our Committee Officers and guest speakers about the current projects that are in progress, involving links to other Leagues, and in and around our community, and the wider FA organization, as well as our open communications with the County FA. With the latter going through their very own evolution to make things better for grassroots in Wiltshire.
- Our Honorary Committee Officers carry out multiple roles during the course of the year. Pete apart from Fixtures will meet with the Parish Council to scope out our pitch

requirements, and has to deal with any issues raised by the Parish or the public after your games on Council pitches. With Moredon Hub coming on line he will only see these responsibilities increase, and has given a guarantee to those of you that requested the facilities there. Mark our RAO, is also the Mental Health Well-being Champion on behalf of the County FA. Colin was key to implementing the paperless registration system introduced this year, which you will agree has made things a lot better. He also sits on the County FA Council as our League's Representative. Jimmy has been looking after Results on Full Time, and checking team sheets after each game, and also sits on the Cups committee as joint secretary alongside me. He is also there as your club liaison if you want to use him to raise things to the committee. Keith will explain the roles he plays a little later. Conor is hoping to be joining the committee tonight in a new role, which he will describe himself. With our newly elected Treasurer at the start of last season having to leave the role, both John and I stepped up to the plate and have been doing joint roles ever since. Myself, Jimmy, Colin also are involved in our Clubs, and Mark, Keith, Conor and Colin are also in our referee pool so are kept pretty busy throughout the season.

- Gretchen Samuelson from the County FA will tell you what is happening with the County FA, the changes to safeguarding requirements, and discipline.
- Remembrance given to Chris Paris-Haines, Colin Nunn, Denis Kilford, and Jimmy Horwood's Father who had passed earlier this week.
- 6 years ago, the League started to discuss with the County FA then with its base in Dorcan Village, to help the Harbour Project immigrants, seeking asylum in Swindon, play friendly matches. John has recently reached out to their Team coach Albano, and we have made much progress to get them into a position to integrate within our League. I have great pleasure now to introduce to you Tom Bain the Harbour Project joint CEO, who can tell you more about it.

Harbour Project

Hi, my name is Tom Bain and I have recently become the Joint CEO of The Harbour Project.

The Harbour Project is local in its capacity to support our 'visitors'. We are only able to help those who are currently living in Swindon. Many of the immigrants are transient, and can be quickly moved to another area without a lot of notice. A number of them have been in Swindon a long time, waiting to receive asylum so they can be integrated into society. They are from many places around the world but all have football in common. They have access to Foundation Park, to train, but would really like to play competitive matches. The League has offered its help, and opened discussions with the County FA and other organisations for funding and to get the Club affiliated. Theoretically, we would have enough players to field 2 teams. However, the people we support are transient in nature (as the Home Office can move people with next to no notice) so there is always a chance that numbers will be impacted by that. Having one team would be a more realistic goal.

The players have no money, can't earn money and have no personal transport. Pitch hire and coach cost is consistently our biggest expenditure for an activity that we provide, so maintaining that and finding the money to cover the costs involved with paying for an official team will be the biggest obstacle.

This now sounds like a great opportunity if things can work out, and if our players have the possibility of playing competitive matches with local teams (will go towards integration within the town which is great)! We have made good progress over the last couple of weeks and the County FA are putting together a framework to get the Club affiliated. If you would like to play against the team in a friendly, please forward your names to John or Martyn. Thank you for listening.	
6. Treasurer's report This was circulated prior to the meeting, and with no comments received back there were no furthers additions to the report. Lost Don Rogers sponsorship at the end of the season. With a **positive** current account balance, we will provide the returning 17 teams with 16 free player registrations each.	
7.0 League Secretary As you have already heard, from Pete and Martyn, it has been a very good year for the league, and I can fondly look back on many achievement **firsts.** I am **proud** to be part of a dedicated team of volunteers who go above and beyond to deliver safe, competitive, and affordable football. So, I thank the Committee, the County FA, and all you club volunteers for your continued support. Even when the weather gods make it as difficult as possible, working together, we met our objectives of providing competitive football for 20 teams across 2 divisions. KEEPING YOU INFORMED The League Bulletins have been popular. Please keep returning your feedback. It was our **first** full year as an England Accredited League, and we made many new connections in football circles, and the Swindon community. PLAYER AND TEAM PATHWAYS We will continue to work hard to strengthen our relationships between the League and the Community of Swindon. With the Harbour Project we are the **first** grassroot league to reach out to try and help with their integration into our community. We are building on the grass roots pathway inclusive for all, to the National League via the pyramid, under the guidance of the County FA and League programme. WHAT IS THE FA LEAGUE PROGRAM? **In a nutshell?** Access to free CONSULTANTS, looking at 4 key elements. LEAGUE IDENTITY GOVERNANCE	

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY

Martyn and myself had an inspiring day at St Georges Park for the League Programme event, the **first** time our District League had attended anything as big.

With 34 different Leagues in attendance, representing 10, 000 teams and 145,000 players. It was quite an eye opener, a total revelation, for both of us. It would take up the whole evening to go through all the opportunities we have seen. Now having the services of a Consultant, we **first** re-evaluated the purpose of the League, especially the role the League plays in the Community, and the importance of branding. We know we have to attract sponsors, and partners, who will invest into the League.

We have also started to re-evaluate the purpose and roles of the League Committee.

We recognise how important it is for us to engage with other Leagues, to improve the links already there.

So as a result

……..We attempted to take the Ladies League, under our wing. Although we failed to attract enough votes to bring the Wiltshire Ladies League, into our membership, at their SGM, it was a bold move or us, and the **first** time we have tried bring the 2 Leagues together.

……..We have worked alongside the Senior, Hellenic and Trowbridge Leagues to redefine the Pyramid and I will cover this later tonight.

……..We laid the foundations of a League Champions Cup Competition between us and Trowbridge, including the possibility of a football Festival, with links to Youth football. The **first** of its kind, if was to come about, to be held in Devizes.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Down Ampney and the Redhouse first team have left for pastures new, the Wiltshire Senior Division 1, and we wish them both well. We were very sorry to see Nalgo fold at the end of the season, but I congratulate Jimmy as they kept on going when times were very tough, putting together a great cup run, and winning the Plate Competition

Team recruitment has gone well and we continue to attract a lot of interest, from Development and Reserve sides, and also the Sunday League, with 8 new teams here tonight.

FUTURE OF THE LEAGUE

The League will continue to work tirelessly to develop a pathway for players starting at age of 16. We want everyone in our football community to have a place where they will feel supported, where they can stay active and have fun, regardless of their background or ability.

Therefore, for the **first** time I can announce that we are changing our League name to better reflect our identity and purpose, to: -

“The Swindon and District Community Football League”.

8. League Safeguarding Officer

Mandatory for season 24/25.

- All Clubs, (not just those with under 18 year old players), must have a dedicated welfare Officer with DBS cleared, Coaches, and Staff. Their names and in date FA recognised qualifications must be entered in the club portal on Whole Game. County Affiliation cannot be completed without this information displayed.
- Keith will offer assistance with any safeguarding courses via FA Learning throughout the season as necessary.
- He will be conducting ongoing reviews of home grounds and facilities to offer advice and best safeguarding practises where necessary.
- He will operate with a complete open-door policy to safeguarding, and if necessary, escalations into WFA where required to provide swift resolutions or further advice.
- He will always be happy to discuss action plans with clubs and help where possible in ensuring a club is fully aware of their responsibilities.
- He will offer assistance with obtaining DBS and if necessary, escalates through WFA in order to expedite cases or "troubleshoot" applications deemed to be delayed.
- He will provide access and links to all relevant safeguarding courses, whether for Club Welfare Officers, League Committee Members, Club Officials, or even to assist Match Officials where appropriate.
- He will encourage match Officials to report concerns to him in instances where reminders may be needed regarding safeguarding or welfare.
- He and other members of the League are currently obtaining necessary qualifications to become DBS authenticators in order to make the completion of DBS renewals easier, quicker, and less inconvenient.

Keith was then asked about a safeguarding issue where he was unable to talk about or name an individual, or discuss in any detail, which is in keeping with the FA confidentiality laws.

Please note: The league **will/cannot** answer any questions if:

- They're defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- They're the same as the question answered in the past 12 months.
- They require disclosure of confidential or exempt information – e.g. personal or financial information about individuals.

9. League Governance Officer Address

Hi I am Conor, a lot of you will already know me as a referee.
I am looking forward to the role as Governance Officer.
I have one simple rule for you
"Follow the League rules, and I will leave you alone, if you do not I will come after you."

10. Referee Appointment Officers Address

Another season when we covered every game with a referee.

Several games had 3 officials in attendance, either requested and expensed by you, or by the League for training purposes or as part of the League giving back monies received from you over the season. A game may be one with a lot riding on the result, or seen as a potential spark, the league would prefer to take pro-active action, with 3 neutral officials being better than one.
If both teams decide they would prefer, 3 officials at a game, please ask for availability and price. Plenty of referees have registered to the League, expect all games to be covered.
The buddy scheme under the guidance of Jeremy Moyse has seen referees develop, and ready to take on games in our Premier Division next season.
It is important to mention, we take referee marking on team sheets as one of several key indicators of their overall performances, and we concentrate on helping those whose performance has dipped, and will spend time with them to see what they need? So, please bear this in mind when marking your referee. It is natural to be disappointed, when the match outcome is not in your favour, and your focus will immediately turn to the ref's decisions, and their handling of the game. Just like your players they can/do have off days, so please allow some time after the game to reflect before giving a score of 61. When reviewing these marks we do see a correlation between the result, or cautions, and a mark given of 61 from one team when their opponents giving a score much higher. Our mentors want to spend more time with refs that need guidance, but at the same time we must not discount the 61 scores either. Please remember, that at some of your matches assessors are present, and we look at their remarks about the ref's performance.

Mark engaged with the clubs at this point, and received a mixed bag of comments, but a general agreement was reached to feedback concerns to him after each game. He doesn't always see something back from the teams, and often he has to search out for reports, before he can act. If he doesn't get told, there is not a lot he can do. He makes the final decision on which referee you get, so again it is very important you let him know your feelings and your reasons?

We will have a few new girls and boys (under 18's), taking your games next season, adding to our numbers. Please make them feel welcome.

When asked if there were any further questions, he was told a few refs do not listen to the club captains, not allowing them to speak, which surely has to change? Maybe he says they are going after the ref in a threatening manner, no he was told my captain, who has the responsibility because he is normally extremely calm in heated moments, and tries to take the sting out of any situation. Mark has promised to raise this at his next referee meeting.

£500 cheque

The League were very grateful to Mark to receive a donation of £500, from him, on behalf of the passing of his husband, who wanted to give back something to the league for the fun times he had supporting Mark around the grounds.

The new shields purchased with the funds were awarded to :

Junior referee – Jake Giles
Senior referee – Jeremy Moyes

11. Election of new clubs to fill vacancies.

All 8 new teams AFC Harrow, FC Scorpion, Old Town Athletic, Redhouse Reserves, Ridgeway Rovers, Swindon Rovers, Tidworth Town, and Wroughton Youths were elected onto the League. Good luck for the season.

12. RULE AMENDMENTS TO MENTION - **<u>CHANGES TO SCOR BY FA</u>** **2K** WRITTEN CONSENT REQUIRED FROM THE LEAGUE BEFORE ENTERING ANY OTHER COMPETITIONS APART FROM THOSE RUN BY FA TO HELP LEAGUE PLAN FIXTURES - FINE FOR NON-COMPLIANCE **18E** A PLAYER SUBMITTING A REGISTRATION FOR MORE THAN ONE CLUB? FIRST ONE SUBMITTED IS VALID. **RULE CHANGES BY LEAGUE APPROVED BY FA** **2C** 25 MILES TO 30 **2G** RESPECT CAMPAIGN LEAGUE DRIVEN **2I** NEW CLUBS TO APPLY FOR ENGLAND ACCREDITION, LEAGUE WILL ASSIST. DOING MOST OF IT IS DONE BY YOU WHEN AFFILIATING WITH COUNTY. YOU JUST NEED A SIMPLE CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN. MANY OF NEW CLUBS HERE ALREADY HAVE IT. **10A** PLAYERS NO LONGER SEE THE RESPECT STATEMENT AS IT WAS ON BACK OF REGISTRATION FORM SO NOW THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUB OFFICERS TO GET MESSAGE ACROSS. **18D** IF PLAYERS REGISTRATION FEES ARE NOT PAID AFTER ATTEMPT BY LEAGUE TO RECOUP DEBT, PLAYER WILL BE DE-REGISTERED BY THE LEAGUE **18L** 21 DAY PLAYER RULE IN SCOR IS NOT RELEVANT IN THIS LEAGUE **20A** PLEASE CONSIDER SAGEGUARDING & WELFARE REQUIREMENTS WHEN PROVIDING CHANGING FACILITIES **20F THE INTRODUCTION OF ROLLING SUBSTITUES WERE AGAIN DEBATED AND PUT TO A VOTE** **POLL** Option 1 Across all football competitions FOR 11 votes AGAINST 14 votes Option 2 Division One only FOR 6 votes AGAINST 19 votes Option 3 Cups (both) FOR 11 votes AGAINST 14 votes It must be noted that at this stage the Division make had not been announced. Rolling subs will not be introduced for another season.	
13. League and referee fees These stay the same as last season. With League games referee costs are shared, home club pays for pitch, with cup matches all costs are shared.	

Notice is given there will be a small referee cost increase 2025/2026	
14. Constitution of League for coming season. **PREMIER** Shield and Dagger, Coleview, Chiseldon, Bassett Bulldogs, Marlborough Development, Blunsdon Reserves, Old Town Athletic, Ramsbury, Moredon, Purton, Nationwide, Nalgo Masters. (12 teams) **DIVISION ONE** Abbeymeads, AFC Harrow, Cricklade Reserves, FC Scorpion, Lower Stratton, Poulton, Redhouse Reserves, Ridgeway Rovers, Spectrum, Stratton Juniors Reserves, Swindon Rovers, Tidworth Town, Wroughton Youth (13 teams) 14a. **PYRAMID** The top three clubs in each of the Swindon & District Premier Division, Hellenic Division Two, Trowbridge & District League One, and Wiltshire Senior League Division One, are eligible to apply for promotion to the Wiltshire Senior League at the end of each season. They must meet the necessary ground grading requirements. I will send out an Expression of Interest Form to each Premier club in December. It is up to you to apply through Jim Thorn, the League Secretary, by end of January. Within **current FA RULES** there is no Senior status attached to the Wiltshire Division One, therefore you do not have to "win" a place. If you wanted to move across to either their Division One or the Hellenic Division 2, you have to apply by contacting the League Secretary of both Leagues. The Wiltshire Senior League have been discussing introducing **ground grading as a pre-requisite** to join their Division one, from next season, to make promotion to their Premier Division smoother. The Current League structure is PREMIER LEAGUE PL ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE EFL NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM NSL FEEDER LEAGUES – Wiltshire Senior League is one. **ALL OTHER LEAGUES HAVE THE SAME GRASSROOTS STATUS**	
15. The big reveal **SUPERMARINE PARTNERS** The partnership is really key to keeping community football alive at all levels. We propose the following	

We will host your cup final this coming season for £325 + vat
We ca host your AGM next season at £50 + vat
We can also host your committee meetings in our dome facility at a minimal charge of £10 per meeting, the larger community room would be £25 per hour.

Our dome training facility currently runs at £67 per hour, we are prepared to offer this to your member clubs for £55 per hour subject to availability We can offer an exclusive of £30 per hour for 9-10 weekday evenings.

For any midweek league games the Swindon Supermarine first team have, we will be pleased to offer a free ticket allocation to the league for member clubs, we will need to work on the finer points on these.

We also have a physio clinic on site as one of our partners and I will speak with them about offering a member club discount.
For any registered player with one of your member clubs, we can offer a 25% discount for the hire of our community room and a 10% discount for children's football parties in the dome facility.

I know there was interest in our dome facility being used for referee training, we will ensure we find an exclusive rate on this to assist with this vital development.

These are opening points, but I would like to evolve the partnership as we go.

16. Any other business

16a Thank you to those of you that spoke to me last night. Currently we have 16 teams accredited, to meet our objective we need a further 6 teams (90% of 25 = 22.5)

16b,c,d Covered by Gretchen with details suppled in a series of slides forwarded to clubs.

16e The lack of pitches in Swindon. Due to the wet weather 3G pitches are quickly taken, the league appreciates how difficult it is to find pitches to play a friendly.

A raffle concluded the meeting with captain arm bands, marker cones and football given as prizes.

John Luckhurst

League Secretary