SECRETARY ADDRESS

It has been a very good year for the league. Our community football league has provided opportunities at various skill levels, in two competitive divisions. We have concentrated on keeping your costs down to an affordable level, promoting a sense of community, responsibility and enjoyment in all the social and recreational elements of the game in our grassroot football League.

Your dedicated team of volunteers again have delivered safe, competitive, and affordable football, in the newly rebranded District Community League.

So, I thank the Committee, the County FA, and all you club volunteers for your continued support.

Again, the weather gods made it as difficult as possible, for us, but working together, we completed the season, although we did have to continue into early May

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

The League Bulletins continue to be popular, and our rebranded social media pages is your go to, for all things District Community League. Please keep returning your feedback, and what else you would like to see?

It was our second year as an England Accredited League, and we are 18 months into our League Business Plan where we have been working alongside an FA consultant.

PLAYER AND TEAM PATHWAYS

We continue to work hard to strengthen our relationships between the League and the Community of Swindon. The Harbour Project football team played recreational matches against our established clubs, helping with their integration into our Football Community.

We continue to build on the grass roots pathway to be inclusive for all, and will take every opportunity to encourage players to join our League, and give access to the support they need.

WHAT IS THE LEAGUE BUSINESS PLAN?

Led by the Chair and the League Secretary we have looked at where we want to be in 3 – 5 years, time, and set goals to achieve them. Our FA consultant, who

we meet with on a regular basis, is there to help set realistic targets for the size of the League, and help us find the resources that we need. These goals are shared with the League Management Committee.

Our mantra is Football for the people by the people. As an England Accredited League, we want to unite our community, through football. We recognize the diversity within our community, and want to remove any fear of discrimination. We will focus on delivering pathways and welcome anybody to join our League, that wants to regardless of their identity or ability. We will continue to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels respected and accepted, with a fully embedded FA compliant safeguarding system in place.

We pushed our strategy for a rebrand to re-create and manage the League's image and perception in the community, of its values, messaging, and visual elements, and ensure its "identity**"** is consistently presented

We want to help sustain your clubs by keeping down your **costs** of administering grassroots in our League. By freezing your Membership costs, and by giving back to continuing clubs, with free player registrations to help with your cash flow.

We believe we are getting a lot of things right, and by the numbers here tonight, backs up our belief that we are.

I am looking forward to the new challenges that season 2025-2026 will bring.

John Luckhurst

League Secretary