

WITNESHAM WASPS FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT FOR 2021/22 SEASONS

All youth teams play in the Suffolk Youth Football League (SYFL) on Saturdays, except where denoted with * as being in the Ipswich & Suffolk Youth Football League (ISYFL) which plays on Sunday mornings.

Unfortunately, for the 22/23 season we were unable to continue with an adult team due to lack of player numbers.

Consideration was given to re-starting this for 23/24 but we have been advised that the SIL are not taking new team entries for the next season – despite having lost 9 or 10 teams from the prior year.

Suffolk FA have struggled with referee numbers resulting in the SIL considering having to drop a whole division – hence the stance on new team entries for next season.

Our focus is now on moving the current U16s into U17&U18 leagues and bridging the gap between the youth teams and adult football.

With regards to the youth teams, I am pleased to confirm a full season of league and cup games has been achievable.

At the start of the season, we were approached by a manager to bring across a whole team from another club, with our club's culture being cited as a key factor – as noted in last year's report, giving us 2 U15 teams for this latest season.

U16s* → sitting 7th in the U16 league

U15s Yellows → likely to win Division 1

U15s Blacks → sitting 6th in Division 2 (new team)

U13s → sitting 4th in Division 3 (promoted last year)

U12s → sitting 10th in Division 2

In addition, the club continues to promote grassroots soccer to children of all ages, and we have teams from U7s through to U11s in development leagues.

In total we have 131 boys and girls signed to the club.

Our remaining challenge is to identify someone to take on the forthcoming season's U7 group. Additionally, one of our current U11 coaches is likely to step down at the end of the season and we are seeking more assistance for this age group, given we have 2 teams operating.

The pitches at Witnesham continue to churn up in the wet and wintry weather. We will likely look at using Parkers Pitches again this year to treat the field in the closed season. The club will liaise with the Parish on dates and type of treatment, etc.

Peter Rolland

Club Secretary – Witnesham WASPS