Hello again, and welcome to the first edition of “Coaches Corner” for 2015. Since my last update in November I am really pleased with the progress we have made on the coaching front. The FA Mentoring Programme is in full swing and many of our teams have benefited from the help and support of our FA Mentor (Steve Lilley). I have also been out and about helping age groups and between me and Steve we have now worked with 11 different age groups!!

**CLUB PHILOSOPHY**

During the winter months we have held back from further coach’s sessions and instead we have focussed on developing our Coaching Philosophy. In January I rolled out the initial draft and asked for your feedback, your response was fantastic and we have now taken all the feedback and developed our philosophy into something really tangible, which we can all support and work within the framework.

I am delighted to say, our new **CLUB PHILOSOPHY** is complete and we are now rolling this out across our club and starting the journey of developing our club into the best junior FC in the region. On March 8th, all the coaches who attended the meeting were right behind the philosophy and the feedback was all positive on the night. Since the meeting, the pack has now been shared with all managers and coaches and we now ask that you read through and digest the information within and start to live and breathe the principles to embed our club DNA within your age group.

Our Mentors are now up and running and following the meeting, 3 of the 4 were booked to support other age groups over the coming weeks, so this shows the appetite is there to work as one big team to improve the coaching at our club. We are currently thinking about how best we communicate this throughout the club to involve managers, coaches, helpers, parents and children and we will let you know more on this shortly. In the meantime, we want our coaches and managers to start applying these principles asap. If you have any questions or concerns about what we’re trying to do, please get in touch with me and I will talk you through what we’re doing (my contact details are below).

**WHAT’S COMING UP**

As we move into spring, we will be starting dedicated Goalkeeping training for the club. I am currently in the process of fixing up a weekly session at SBL where all GK’s will be invited to attend and myself and a few specialist GK coaches will be putting on dedicated GK sessions. It would be great to have as many of our GK’s there as possible, all ages and boys and girls. Look out for more on this soon when we confirm dates and times.

There will also be our next set of “Coach’s Sessions”. I will host these with the intention to bring coaches together at SBL with a group of kids and we will share our favourite drills. If we get 6 coaches at each session and each coach brings 2 drills, then at the end of the session we all leave with 10 new drills. I’m sure these sessions will be a success and I’m looking forward to taking part in them.

We’re also looking at futsol and whether we can bring this into our club in some capacity, but we’re only at the start of this so there’s more work to be done before I can share any detail on this.

**COACHING CPD**

Finally, I am really keen to support coaches with their CPD, we all coach children and it’s a pre-requisite to obtain the Level 1 coaching badge, when in fact the Youth Module is more relevant for what we do. The FA are promoting this more and more and I don’t think it will be too long before the focus moves from the Level 1 badge to the Youth Module. On this basis, I myself along with 3 other coaches have all either completed or are booked to complete the Youth Module 1 in the next month. I have also completed 21 hours CPD this year through various webinars and GFA courses, I would encourage you all to consider your CPD and think about how you can improve your own skillset.

That’s it for this update, I hope you can see we’re making great progress with our coaching structure and I’m sure our new Club Philosophy will give us the platform to be the best for years to come.

Regards

Nige (Under 8’s)

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