Hello again, and welcome to the final edition of “Coaches Corner” for 2015. As the year draws to a close and the cold, wet nights seem so unappealing for training, a massive thanks to all our managers and coaches who still remain resolute and put on coaching sessions for the boys and girls even if sometimes we would rather be sat in the warm watching football on TV.

2015 has been a fantastic year for Longwell Green Juniors. We’ve achieved so much this year and we have plans to do more in 2016. I will need your support to make this work and I’m sure you’ll join me. In a recent meeting I had with the regional grassroots senior coaching tutor, he said “***his challenge this year was to get all other local clubs to the Longwell Green standard***” quite a testament I’m sure you’ll agree.

Our challenge now is to maintain this standard. There is an old saying “**to stand still, is to fall behind**” This means if we do not continue to improve, other clubs will catch us and take over. I am keen to ensure this does not happen so I hope you will join me in continuing our personal development both as a club and individually.

Here is a reminder of what we’ve achieved in 2015:

* Finished our 1st year’s FA Mentoring with Steve Lilley
* Rolled out our Club Philosophy and DNA
* Introduced a coaching session on the agenda at monthly meetings
* Held regular coaches sessions
* Head Coach Communications
* Dedicated Goal Keeping Coaching
* Introduced “Little Un’s” Coaching
* Attended the FA Regional Coaches Event
* Spoke at the FA’s Mentoring Launch for 2016
* Lots of CPD for our coaches

2016 will be no different and we have some excellent plans to take us to the new level. Here are just some of the things we are looking to introduce in 2016:

* Continue with the FA Mentoring Programme working with a new FA Coach
* Be the first local club to include disabled coaching
* Continue with our club Mentors and do even more
* Roll out Mentor Blogs / videos
* Hold an introductory session in Jan / Feb for all parents who might want to become managers / coaches
* Look for the next batch of Mentors
* Futsal coaching
* Goal Keeping Coaching

**COACHING CPD**

As mentioned already, we need to get as many coaches as we can to join the FA Licensed Coaches Club, it’s free to join and this provides you a wealth of information and helps to encourage your CPD. We also need to have a certain amount of coaches who hold the Youth Modules 1, 2 and 3. We’re already ahead of the game with this, but we will need more as the number of players increase at our club.

A few of us have just completed YAM2 and we’ve applied for YAM3 in January, so hopefully we will be selected and the club will meet the requirements earlier than anyone else in the region. Another 1st for the club!

That’s it for me, don’t forget we have myself and 3 mentors who are there to help and support you this season. If you would like any of the mentors to come along and work with you at any of your sessions, please let me know and I will fix this up. I am available to come along and watch, take part or help you if you would like, just let me know.

Regards

Nige (Under 8’s)

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