**Upper Beeding Football Club**

**Chairman’s Report – June 2023**

With the 2022-20233 season coming to a close, it has been in general a season with many frustrations but ended with a lot of positives to move the club forward in to the next season and hopefully many more seasons to come

**First team** – The season started with a lot of anticipation of a strong season ahead. We appointed a new Manager in Dan Burgess, who brought with him a lot of new players that we hoped would be the missing part of the puzzle to help the club challenge for the league that we have threatened to do over the last few seasons, only for covid to get in the way. However, the appointment of Dan did not go as planned. We lost a lot of the core players that have served Upper Beeding so well, and the new players did not get the results anyone was after. After a poor start to the season, it was decided that Dan would step down, and that JP would help to get us to the end of the season.

With JP coming in, and bringing a few of the old players back, JP did not only increase team moral, he also brought a lot of good results to end the season with. Believe, we had the second best form/results over the last 8 games of the season in the league. With this, we believe that having JP in charge again next season, it will not only bring a bit a stability to the club, we are also hoping that the results will keep improving and we can start challenging for honours again

**Reserves** – After a season without a reserve sidr and away from the West Sussex league, it has been agreed that we will start again this coming season. We have met with the league and although we are not fully certain of what league we will be in as yet, it will be good to have the reserves up and running again, as has been missed over the last year. Good luck to all

**Under 15’s** – This season has been the most difficult we have experienced and unfortunately it has come to an end. After 8 seasons of coaching the boys and enjoying quite a bit of success considering the size of our junior section, Matt and myself have decided to both step down. It has become more and more difficult to get 11 boys each weekend, especially now that they are all growing up, have other interests and that the Sunday football has become a lot more competitive to which a few were prioritising. Thank you to Matt for all your hard work over the last 8 years. We are hoping to see a few of the boys return to the club when they turn 16 next season..

**Thank you’s** – Many thanks goes to David Beatty who again has taken on the mantle of the Club Welfare Officer. David does all his work in the background, and without him the youth section in particular would not be able to operate.

**Dave Rowland** - What can we say about Dave. He is the main reason a lot of us are here and will be sorely missed after taking the decision to step back from club duties and enjoy his new grandson, along with watching Brighton on a more regular basis. Dave has run the club almost single handedly over the last 20 plus years, and completed all the duties from league administration, player signings, groundsman, kitman plus numerous other tasks on a weekly basis. It is only now he has stepped back that you realise just how much he does. Tom and myself are struggling to keep up with all the bits and there are two of us…. We are hoping that Dave will still be about and know that Tom and myself will be continually calling for advice over the next few weeks/seasons. Just like to say a massive Thank you from all of us at the club

**Finances** – The club is not quite in the financial position that we would like and haven’t been for quite a few seasons. With covid etc affecting the finances a couple of seasons ago, and the fact that we have not done the junior 6 a side tournament for a couple of seasons, it will be a season of hardship unless we can find some sponsors and/or fund raising events. That being said, we are still in a better position than some clubs of late.

Overall it has been a funny season, with the club struggling at the start, but has a very bright future ahead and lots to look forward too. I will take this opportunity to ask if anybody would like to help behind the scenes with the running of the club. We are looking for committee members and have various roles to fill. Please speak to either Tom or myself

I look forward to seeing you all throughout the season