

Message from the Chairman of Trustees

Dear all,

As you may appreciate, we have not been immune to the effects of Covid-19. Although we have been fortunate to receive some funding via the government furlough scheme, other expenses have continued unabated.

We are a 'not for profit' organisation, with a stated aim of only producing a small operating surplus for unforeseen eventualities. Whilst we can't share every last detail of our finances, we are legally required to produce a set of annual accounts which can be accessed via our website or via the Charity Commission. In short, we will never hide away any money from you, our members.

The harsh reality is that when reviewing our budget for the 20/21 season, against actual income, we are faced with a deficit. Fortunately, due to our prior financial prudence, we are hopeful this can be absorbed by our reserves.

As a management group, we have had to consider carefully whether an increase in fees will be required. However, recognising that many families will also have pressure on finances due to Covid-19, we have decided to keep the rates the same for the coming season.

We will, though, need to alter our match kit arrangements slightly as a quid pro quo. This is to partly reflect the above and partly to recognise that finding sponsors in a very challenging economic situation for businesses is becoming ever harder.

Therefore, moving forward, when each age group needs a new strip, it will fall to the parents/players to purchase the match top as part of the kit bundle supplied via Somerset County Sports (NB: we do not receive any commission for this arrangement).

By way of explanation, the claret training shorts and socks will now double up as match kit, the yellow training top will remain in place (to also act as an 'away' shirt when needed) and the claret and blue match top will be added. Each player will be able to select a squad number from 1-99 on a first come first served basis, which will remain with them until they leave the programme. A record of the same will be kept by Somerset County Sports to avoid duplication errors.

The pricing structure for the kit bundle is [here](#) and I hope you will agree this is a fairer outcome than a price rise across the board for all members. It will also mean that new kit will only be needed when it is outgrown or wears out.

As always, I am available to answer any queries or you can funnel them via Neil White for onward transmission.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Willis

Chair of Trustees