

5 May 2025

### **Annual Report for Somersham F.C.**

The 2024/25 season will go down in the history books as record breaking, but is bittersweet all the same.

The youth team (the Dukes) have continued to make good progress following promotion last season. The season has brought it challenges though with the goalkeeper being out for a large part, and the loss of two players to higher divisions. The team has pushed on nevertheless, finishing a very respectable mid-table. Thanks again to Steve and the team for all their hard work.

The Veteran's season has been difficult following promotion to Division 1. The fourth consecutive promotion has been one too many with the standard and depth of the squads in Division 1 proving beyond the reach of our aging veterans. A bottom place finish will see the team back in Division 2 next season, which is more like home (providing we see some new additions to replace aging squad members).

Regrettably, we had to fold the Reserve Adult Men's team before the start of the season due to insufficient player numbers. Grass roots football just doesn't seem to have the appeal it once did! We were concerned about the impact this could have on the First team, but these concerns have been unfounded. I'm pleased to inform you that at the time of writing the team has already secured promotion to the Senior Division of the Suffolk & Ipswich League (a first in the club's history). The team is currently top on the same points as second place but with a much better goal difference. The team will almost certainly be crowned champions on 6 May! This is a fantastic achievement. The club is punching well above its weight, bearing in mind the size of the village and player catchment.

I used the term bittersweet in my opening sentence and that refers to the fact that the club unfortunately is not able to progress to the Senior Division. The pitch gradient and facilities are not up to standard and whereas work is afoot to address the latter, the former is not something we can change. The club has therefore been forced to accept that it cannot progress higher. The committee has decided not to hold the first team players back and is supporting the managers to find another club where the team can hopefully play in the Senior League next season. Congratulations to Tom Winder and his players for their record-breaking season. We wish them every success in the future and will cherish the memories of this season.

At the time of writing, it is looking likely there will not be an Adult Men's team next season. The Dukes and Veteran's teams will hopefully continue, and the committee sits ready to welcome anyone who wishes to start a new Adult Men's team.

A huge thanks goes out to those that give us their time to volunteer at the club. We also thank the Parish Council for its continued support by paying for pitch maintenance.

The Dukes play on Saturday mornings. The Veterans play every third Sunday afternoon. Please come along and support if you're at a loose end.

Darren Luck  
Treasurer  
Somersham F.C.