



Lawford Football Club

THE EXTRA TIMES

www.lawfordfc.co.uk

Issue No.11
January
2020

All-weather opportunity

Save the Date!

We will be launching our plans to create an all-weather playing facility for the Club at a special meeting of members (players, parents and club officials) at 8pm on Tuesday 11 February. Please join us at the clubhouse to hear all about this exciting new opportunity for Lawford FC.

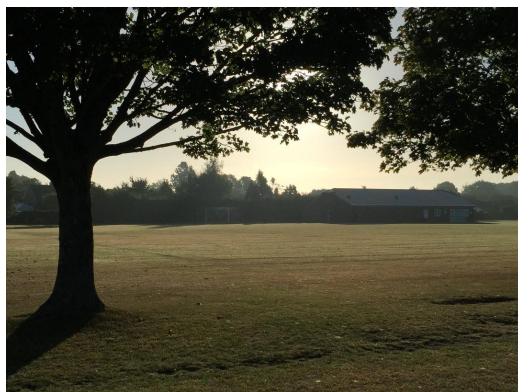
Our Partners

Lawford Parish Council, who own the site at School Lane, have been good friends of the Club over many years. The Council have indicated their support for this project. Essex County FA play an important role in Club development and liaison with the Football Foundation. The Football Foundation is the major funder of non-commercial all-weather pitches across England and are the FA and Government's charity that helps communities improve their local football facilities.

Follow the project

We will shortly be launching a new page on our website with the latest news on the project www.lawfordfc.co.uk/allweatherproject

Ten years ago, the Club started a highly ambitious project to replace a timber building in a state of disrepair with a purpose-built modern clubhouse. Opened in 2011 the John Lyall Pavilion is a fantastic facility for both players and supporters. Admired by many visitors to School Lane, the clubhouse offers a warm welcome to all.



A decade later a small group has been working, behind the scenes, researching the possibility of constructing an all-weather playing surface. Supported by Lawford Parish Council, this month we are launching our campaign, named LFC@LFC, to build a 3G pitch at School Lane. The initials LFC as well as being shorthand for the Club, represent the key objectives of our project to create a -

Easy to remember: LFC@LFC! Like the clubhouse, this will be a huge undertaking both financially and in the hours of voluntary time required to achieve our vision. While the Football Foundation is the major funder of 3G facilities, we will need to raise funds ourselves and secure funding from other organisations.

Next month we will hold a launch event for the project together with an EGM for members to consider converting to a new legal entity specifically designed for smaller charities. With charitable status, the Club will be able to benefit from Gift Aid on donations and potentially access other new sources of funding.

Club Chairman, John Duchars highlights "This is a tremendous opportunity for Lawford. We will need the commitment of players and supporters from across the Club together with the backing of the wider community to realise our ambition." Please tell us how you can help by speaking to a club official or e-mailing lawfordfc@gmail.com

Local & sustainable hub that is a
First class facility, supporting wellbeing &
Community-wide participation





Short Corner

News from around the Club

Reserves

Congratulations to the Reserves who have successfully progressed to the quarter finals of the Essex Junior Cup following wins over favourites Witham U23's, Eastside and Arsleford Reserves. The quarter final will be on the 25th January at School Lane against Clacton Reserves. Please come along and show your support.

Manager Jay Welham has signed in excess of 20 players and continues to build the team. This season nine of the U18s have played for the Reserves, three of whom have progressed through to the first team. After a run of very good results, the Reserves are currently second in the league.



Feeling sheepish

Club officials had the wool pulled over their eyes after being caught unprepared for a pitch invasion at School Lane one Sunday morning in early November. Play was interrupted in at least two games while managers and coaches tried to shepherd the culprits away. A Club spokesman warned that this type of flocking behaviour would not be tolerated and that, inevitably, repeat offenders would be baaed.



Thank you to Emma Stacey who shared her video of the incident. This can be found on the

Club's website and Twitter page. At the last count Emma's video had received 134 likes and over 7000 views on Twitter.

Congratulations on Charter Status



Congratulations to the Ladies team and all those who support them behind the scenes at the Club on achieving FA Charter Status. Club Chairman, John Duchars, said "This means that all sections of the Club now have Charter Status, an achievement that we can be truly proud of." Si Collinson, who manages the Ladies team, added "I am delighted that we have achieved FA Charter Status and look forward to the Ladies becoming even more integrated with the rest of the Club."

Quality image

Many thanks to former Lawford Lads Secretary, Bob Wheatly, who contacted the Club to share images of teams from the 1960s.



Bob, on the far right above, was Club Secretary from 1956 to 1964 and then Vice Chairman and Chairman until 1968 when he was elected Vice Chairman of the Colchester and East Essex League. He went on to serve as Chairman, President and now Patron of the League. Bob's father-in-law, Bob Broom, was one of the founding members of the Lads. The images that Bob shared, clearly the work of a talented photographer, can be found on our website at - www.lawfordfc.co.uk/past-teams

School Lane Pitches

Last month was one of the wettest Decembers in recent years. Despite this all Lawford home fixtures went ahead without interruption. Many other local clubs called off games on more than one weekend. Thanks to the hard work of Lloyd Bellett, Geoff Cone, Dave Atton, Steve Rand and Jason Tilstone, the School Lane pitches were playable for all our scheduled games.

The Saturday before Christmas was a real test given heavy rain both that morning and during the preceding few days. With the Reserves recording a 4-0 victory over St. Oysth, the Essex & Suffolk Border League made special mention to our groundsman, describing the pitch as "excellent" and their tireless work as a "huge credit to grassroots football." Well done guys.

New Kit for U8s

The U8s are very grateful to the recent anonymous donation that funded new kit for the team. Thank you!

Full size Images can be found at
www.lawfordfc.co.uk



Referee Courses



Essex FA currently have 6 courses running across the county in the first half of 2020, although one is now fully booked and another with limited spaces. The courses cost £135 and include a mid-week session followed by two consecutive Sunday sessions. They also offer Mini Soccer courses and those take place on a Saturday, however these are run based on demand. If anyone has any questions regarding the courses on offer, please contact George Lowe george.lowe@essexfa.com 01245 393097.

Thank you!

Many thanks to everyone who supported the World's Biggest Coffee Morning event held at School Lane in October on behalf of MacMillan Cancer Support. Thanks to your generosity £749 was raised for the charity.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Come on Ref!

How many of us as players or supporters have shouted out "REFEREE!" during a recent game. Football, however, takes on a whole new perspective when you are the referee. Match officials, and particularly referees, are an essential element of any competitive fixture. They ensure that the laws of the game are followed in the interest of both fairness and safety, contributing to a positive football experience for all participants.



According to Essex FA good referees are "confident and decisive, with patience and an ability to communicate in an effective manner, making decisions and explaining to the players what's happening next, when appropriate. A sense of humour is also a great advantage!"



Lawford's Child Welfare Officer and former U16s Manager, Jonathan Sly, joined one of the Essex FA courses last year, going on to qualify as a referee. "I can honestly say that this is one of the best things I have ever done. It makes you look at the game from a very different perspective; both teams are important to you, you have a sense of responsibility to them both equally. You really appreciate the laws of the game and why they are there."

As a Club we are keen to support the training and development of new referees. Lawford's Football Development Officer, Carl White, explains "Over recent years several youth players have qualified as referees, with the Club helping fund course costs and providing development opportunities."



George Lowe, Referee Development Officer at Essex FA, plays an important role co-ordinating referee training in our area. George writes "Our courses are open to learners of all ages, genders and backgrounds with people wanting to get involved to earn a little extra pocket money or because they want to follow the promotion pathway with the long term aim of refereeing being a career."

The County offer further support through its mentoring system. According to George, "once completing the course, we provide matchday support in the form of Referee Mentors to guide new referees through the first 5 games of their referee journey. The mentor will be there to provide a friendly face on the touchline as well as provide advice on how to develop and improve as a referee."

We asked Jonathan if there was any downside to becoming a referee. "Well, my friends who sit with me at Colchester United or during a game on the telly are claiming that I have become boring now as I always defend the referee and their decision making whereas in the past I might have been a little more 'critical'."

Jonathan finishes our conversation by summing up the benefit of seeing the game from a new viewpoint "Having played, coached and now refereed I can proudly claim to have done the 'holy trinity' of football. I would recommend



refereeing to all who love the game; young, old and those in-between. It keeps you mentally sharp, physically fit and develops your skills in decision making, mediating and communicating."



Andy Young

Interested in playing Ladies football?

The Ladies team is looking for further new players aged sixteen and over to join their team. Training on Thursday between 7-8pm is led by highly motivated FA qualified coaches. Matches are played on Sunday.

If you're interested in getting involved and joining a very friendly and welcoming bunch of players, please contact -

Aaron Finch (07852329404)
or Lloyd Bellett
(shelley.bellett@btinternet.com).

Newsletter via E-mail
Want to join the distribution list for our newsletter, please let us know by e-mailing
lawfordfc@gmail.com

Ninety seconds with Andy Young, First Team Manager

How did you first become involved in the Club?

Playing as centre-back for the First team in 2003-4 in the Border League Premier Division. Paul Bowers, now the Club's Director of Football was manager

Other than Lawford FC, which team do you support? Arsenal

What has been the highlight of your time at the Club so far?

As a player winning the Border League Cup. As First team manager being Division One runners up and promotion to the Premier Division

What is your all time football highlight?

Competitive football for me started at primary school as part of the team that won the Fishermans Cup. As a senior, at Lawford and then at West Bergholt, we won the Border League Cup. As Lawford manager, first getting promoted to the Premier Division and now seeing the Club moving forward positively, supporting integration from U18s into the senior teams.

If you could change one thing about the game what would it be?

A more consistent standard of refereeing

Half-time oranges - good idea?

Yes, I always like a bit of fruit

Who is your football hero?

My heros would be Dennis Bergkamp and Ian Wright

Bacon sandwich or ham & cheese panini?

Bacon sandwich

Do you have a football nickname?

Scholesy

Outside of football how do you spend your time? Its work, football followed by more work and more football

What is the best advice you've been given?

Your last touch is more important than your first touch

What was your favourite children's TV programme? Nightrider

How many pairs of football boots you own?

Two pairs

If you could choose one piece of music to be played as you come on to the pitch what would it be? 2 Unlimited - Get Ready For This

Thank you, Andy

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