

# RASTRICK JUNIOR FC



## INTRODUCTION

It has been a year since Coronavirus impacted all our lives.

Seemingly overnight, every aspect of our world changed and lots of fun activities were replaced with mundane walks around the nearest park. Sure, we were able to play a few games of football, hand-shake-less games of football with enough sanitizer to sink a battleship, but at least a few balls were kicked, and a few goals were scored. But sadly, everything slowed down...

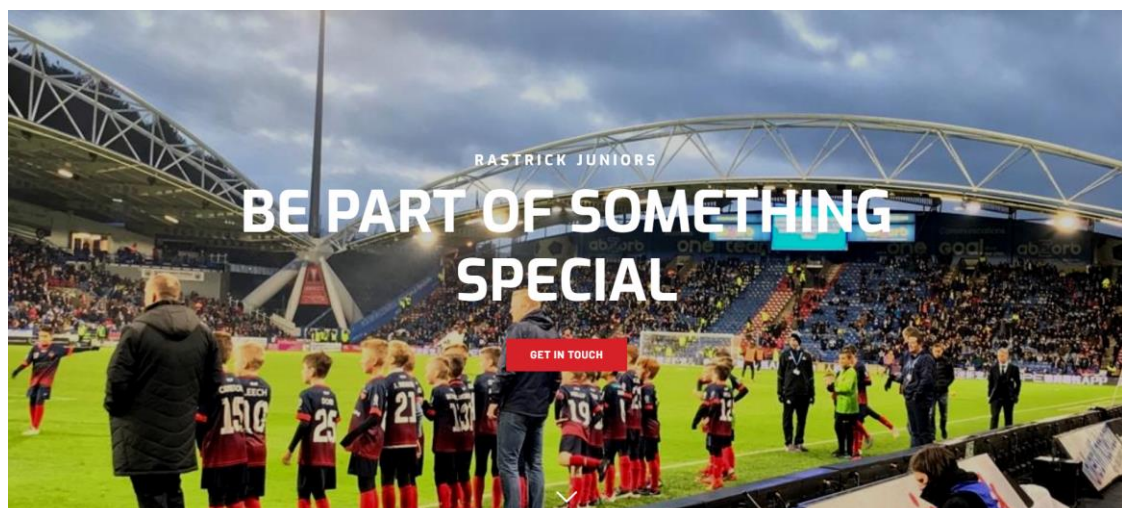
...well, not quite everything.

Whilst most other clubs went into hibernation, at RJFC we have put this spare time to good use as we aim to propel the club into its next era. **Our organisation is proudly 30 years old this year**, and we want to celebrate with a bang by stepping up the level of Services to Football that we deliver into our community, giving our kids even more opportunity to enjoy the beautiful game.

**We have carried on, because you have carried on supporting the club by paying your subs and supporting our fundraising events.** There is too much to send out on WhatsApp, so we have created this club-wide newsletter to get everyone updated on all matters.

We hope that all our volunteers have had a well-deserved break (you truly do deserve it for all of your hard work over the years), but we also hope you are ready and raring to get back to some exciting fun-filled football action!

**“We can’t wait to see our fields filled (safely) with kids, friends & families having fun again!”** **RJFC Committee**



# RESTART 3.0

## WHEN WILL WE RETURN?

At the time of publishing this newsletter, we await further advice and guidance from the Government, local authorities, The FA, and West Riding County FA (WRCFA) about the details of the restart, which we hope will be the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

It is safe to say that guidelines will be like before - bubbles, keeping a register, cleaning equipment, no handshakes, etc...

**Please keep an eye out on your WhatsApp groups  
for communications surrounding the restart.**

## SUPPORT EVERYONE

As we return to football activity, some players may find they are not as physically fit as they were before lockdown. Others may have struggled mentally and emotionally by being away from the game. Sadly, there will be some who have seen family members become unwell, or who have experienced a bereavement, or witnessed or suffered abuse in the home.



Now more than ever, we need everyone in our community to support and take care of each other - kids and adults.

Please make the extra effort to ask how your fellow players and parents are doing, and if you are struggling with something please try to **TALK**. Talking about things can be difficult for us all, so if someone needs your support then please **LISTEN**.

**WE ARE MUCH MORE THAN JUST A FOOTBALL CLUB.**

**WE ARE A COMMUNITY.**

# FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

## HELLO QUINNY!

The Trustees and Committee of the Club are pleased to announce that **Paul Quinn** has agreed to take the position of leading football development throughout all age groups of the club.

Paul is currently manager of Tadcaster Albion as well as owner of the Forza Huddersfield centre and director of an education consultancy business. He holds UEFA A License and a BA (HONS) in Physical Education from Leeds Beckett University.



Paul is well known in local education and football, having previously been an FA Coach and Mentor, Head of PE at Brooksbank School & manager of Brighouse Town and will help the Club lead and mentor players, coaches, and managers.

Since 2018 RJFC have increased participation numbers by over 40% to nearly 400 individual children, and this number is rising daily even during lockdown. This has been matched by 77 amazing managers and coaches who cover 29 teams of mixed ability. It is time for the Club to assist these volunteers in ensuring that every child receives the very best in development and progression in their football.

On restart, Paul will be employed across every age group and the committee have set out a remit of headlines to work towards:

- Create a Club identity / ethos for coaches and players.
- Identify gaps in individual coaches' skills and individual age groups.
- Provide support and mentoring for all coaches.
- Work closely with our mini and junior kicker sections (aged 4-6) to establish a basic skills base for players and identify/teach the next U7s manager.
- Develop consistent club wide training plans and sessions.
- Develop / create a coach's handbook in conjunction with the Safeguarding Officer.
- Hold CPD workshops / seminars for coaches.
- Develop a plan for post U18s and move toward open age group / semi pro / pro pathways.
- Develop a plan for position specific coaches/leaders.
- Implement Player/Coaches reviews.
- Explore options for the filming of training/games.



We are sure you will agree that Paul is a huge addition to the RJFC team, and his enormous experience will help us all develop. This does not take away from the amazing work our volunteers all do every week;

**RJFC is, and always will be, a Grassroots Football Club,  
providing football & life skills to all abilities of all ages.**

# CHANGES TO OUR CLUB STRUCTURE

## FROM A CHARITY TO A CIO

As per the letter sent to all members on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021, we have made a change to the legal structure of our football club. Specifically, we have converted the club from a "Registered Charity" to a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" or CIO.

As a CIO we are still a charity registered with the Charity Commission, but we are now also a company. As such, we can enter into contracts as a club (Rastrick Junior FC) which greatly reduces any liability to Trustees and Members of the club.



The change was a necessary step as part of our club's continual improvement plan, and our objective remains the same:

***The Charity's Objects are the promotion of community participation in healthy recreation for the benefit of children and young people living in, but not limited to, Rastrick, and surrounding areas, by the provision of facilities for playing football.***

## NEW CLUB TRUSTEES

The CIO will have a board of 7 trustees who will oversee our club and look forward, ensuring the long-term success and security of the organisation within our community.

In addition to the four existing trustees, **Lydia Moi, Sara Goodall, John Rider & Martin Ford**; we are very pleased and proud to announce that not only have we secured the services of three new trustees, but that we were able to secure our top 3 picks at the first time of asking:



**Stephen Evans:** As head teacher of Rastrick High School, Steve has a big interest in all child focused activity in the Rastrick Community and is excited to be part of our organisation and to support our children's development both on and off the field.



**Sophie Whittaker:** Rastrick's own Conservative Councillor on the Calderdale Council, Sophie has a keen eye on all things Rastrick. She has experience in Safeguarding Children and also as a Board Trustee with other local charitable organisations.



**Craig Whittaker:** The Calder Valley's Member of Parliament for more than a decade, who has also served as PPS to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. We are delighted to welcome Craig's knowledge and experience to the club.



# CHANGES TO OUR CLUB STRUCTURE

## NEW STRUCTURE

Our Trustees will oversee our club, but the day-to-day operations of running the club will remain the task of the committee. The committee will continue to make decisions that will support our Football Operations. For transparency, please see our org structure below:

Board of Trustees						
Craig Whittaker	John Rider	Lydia Moi	Martin Ford	Sara Goodall	Sophie Whittaker	Steve Evans
Committee						
Facilities / Grounds Person	John Rider Vice-Chair / COVID	Lydia Moi Secretary	Martin Ford Chair	Sara Goodall Treasurer	Stuart Shore Governance / COVID	Parents / Players Ambassador
Marketing & Communications	Brian Littlejohn Strategy	Paul Quinn Football Development	Lorna Horner Fundraising Officer	Sara Goodall Safeguarding Officer	Dave Hodgson Commercial	Grants & Development
Football Operations						
COVID	TOURNAMENT	DEVELOPMENT		FOOTBALL	REFEREES	FORUMS
John Rider Stuart Shore	Stuart Shore	Paul Quinn	Enrico Moi (GK)	Age Group Mgrs	Jimmy Fitt	Parent / Player Ambassadors
COVID Admins	Tournament Ambassadors	Coaches			Junior Referees	All Parents & Players

## OPEN COMMITTEE ROLES

Our club continues to grow with nearly 400 children enjoying football at RJFC. **We need more help at committee and football operations levels. Therefore, the following roles will be open for appointment at the next AGM:**

### PLAYERS AMBASSADOR & PARENTS AMBASSADOR

It is important that our players and parents have a strong and clear voice within our club. These Ambassador roles seek to give our players and parents a voice within the club at an operational level. We are looking for a player from our older age groups to take a seat on the committee, and a parent to do the same. They will make themselves available to the wider group of players and parents (perhaps via a representative in each age group) to help pass communications, ideas & opinions back and forth between our service users and the committee.

## FUNDRAISING

Lorna, our Fundraising Officer, is doing an amazing job but she needs some help. We are looking for some fundraising assistants to help with event planning, deliveries and collections and running the club's online shop. Lorna has lots of ideas, but one person can only do so much. Fundraising Support will help her greatly.

## FACILITIES/GROUNDS

We are seeking someone to help manage our grounds and facilities as we intend to store more equipment onsite, and we will soon have a building to take care of. Security checks, pitch inspections, involvement with our pitch maintenance, providing access to contractors, and checking for signs of any unwanted behaviour. This position is ideal for someone who might regularly frequent the community space.



## MARKETING & PR

As we do more, we must communicate more and across various channels. We are seeking someone who can manage our social media (Facebook & Twitter), our WordPress website, and our [info@rastrickjfc.co.uk](mailto:info@rastrickjfc.co.uk) inbox. This could be someone looking for experience to add to their portfolio for University, or someone who does this daily and therefore it will not take up too much extra time.

## GRANTS & DEVELOPMENT

Keeping on top of what grants are available to our organisation, and which areas of our development can be aided using services that are available to us through The FA and other sporting organisations is a key funding stream that we are only breaking the surface of as a Club. We need someone who is eager to unearth some funding to create a real impact in the facilities we can offer the community.

## LEARNING POSITIONS

If you would like to help, but you are not confident you have what it takes, please talk to us about a learning role. That might take on the form of an assistant to one of our roles (e.g., Secretaries Assistant) to help with operational duties like player registrations.

Or perhaps as a "backup" to one of our essential positions such as Safeguarding Officer where you will be able to use the FA Learning system to develop your skills to assist our existing committee members.

Again, this may be of interest to someone looking for experience to add to their portfolio for University.

**PLEASE DO CONSIDER THE ROLES ABOVE AND GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR AGE GROUP MANAGER OR THE COMMITTEE IF YOU THINK YOU CAN HELP.**

**THE MORE OF US THERE ARE, THE EASIER AND MORE QUICKLY THE CLUB WILL DEVELOP AND CONTINUE TO BE ONE AT THE FOREFRONT OF SPORTING ORGANISATIONS.**

# CLUBHOUSE UPDATE

This is very much on track! However, as ever, there have been a few hurdles to overcome. We will not go into them now but trust us when we say this is a daily task for our committee members!

The main change to update you is with regards to alterations that have been enforced due to cost. Unforeseeable price increases because of Brexit and the Pandemic were unsustainable from a finance perspective. Luckily, our amazing architect Ben and Project Manager Mark came up with a solution almost immediately.



Bottom line is we are waiting for the Planning Department, but we are working behind the scenes so that as soon as the green light is given, we will be off and running.

Thank you for your support with our petition to the council, here are just some of the comments we received from around the world:

**Tom Hirst**  
1 month ago

Rastrick Juniors is a fantastic club with some of the most proactive coaches in the area. It's always a very welcoming experience whenever we visit. However, I do feel the club could greatly benefit from this sort of facility to further enhance the great work they are doing with the youth of Rastrick

**David Sharp**  
1 month ago

I coach a junior football team and we play Rastrick regularly. Such an incredible community club- you see the number of kids the club is coaching when we play them. But to have that many kids playing without proper facilities is not right.

**STOP PRESS – Further good news is that Thornhill Estates have agreed in principle to lease us the land between the current fields and the Park pitch. This will mean that once the Community Asset Transfer of Carr Green (including the Park Pitch) takes place, we can link all three parcels of land together.**

## RASTRICK HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

You will have seen that the amazing news that Rastrick High School have announced plans to upgrade their current AstroTurf pitch to a state-of-the-art 3G surface. This will also include changing rooms, upgraded floodlights and numerous other improvements. There was not enough in the budget for a wind break unfortunately!

RJFC were the instigators of this project, acting as a “go between” with the school, the FA and the Football Foundation. RJFC will be the principle “Partner Club” in this project, which has all kinds of benefits, but ultimately we now have a winter training base and an all-weather playing facility that we have more rights to.

Intrinsic to the success of this project will mean that members of our committee will also sit on the Steering Group for the facility, protecting the club’s interests for years to come.

In addition, links have been forged even more strongly with the RHS Head teacher now becoming a trustee of our club. In return, our club chair has become a trustee of the High School.

## PITCH IMPROVEMENTS

The second year of funding for this scheme has now commenced and a replica programme of improvements costing £19,000 will take place this year to improve the surface and ultimately the games that are possible at Carr Green.

However, this is even more difficult with the site being open to the public, who often do not respect the playing surface as much as we do. It is also tested by the sheer number of games and training sessions that take place each week.

The new 3G facility will enable us to have more space which will aid in the improvement of the surface for those important cup ties...

Mini-Soccer will utilise the RHS 3G to create more space for league football.

Mobile goals stored in a fenced off area will allow movement of pitches to avoid bald goalmouths.

There are big plans for the future of the Park Pitch.....





## SUMMER ACTIVITIES

We are keen to create events that will bring people back together at RJFC as much as possible, but in as safe a way as possible too. We must adhere to government guidelines around social gatherings as we all to continue to work together to control the spread of Coronavirus.

Our Tournament Officer Stuart Shore is already chasing WRCFA to work out if a **Summer Tournament** is possible, and what that might look like if we have to include an element of social distancing or limit attendance. Perhaps we will run the tournament over 2 days to make it work? Or run a smaller event? Either way, we are trying our best to make it happen.



Congregating indoors is still difficult to manage in a safe way, and whilst we only played a little football over the past year, we still did play some football! So, there will be a **Presentation Event** in July, either at the John Smith's Stadium if we are allowed, or outdoors at the fields if it is logistically easier.



We are also considering a **Summer Fun Day** at Carr Green, where there might be elements of Race Night, a mini-tournament, and other activities to bring everyone at the club together to have some fun.

**We will send out updates on all summer events via your Age Group Managers  
as soon as we work out what is allowed.**

## BE A VOLUNTEER

In addition to the open Committee roles, there is always space for more volunteers in our club:

- Coaches
- Referees
- COVID Administrators
- First Aiders
- Football-carders
- Equipment getter-outerers and put-awayers
- Someone to get the traffic cones out at the crack of dawn on Sunday mornings...!

**The simple fact is that we are a volunteer run club, and we can only play football week in, week out, because we have a community full of wonderfully supportive people.**

*If you want to help, just put your hand in the air...*

