



Norfolk County Football Association
Affiliation Number 1163974.
Registered Charity No 1114621

**Hillside Rovers Football Club
Annual Report 2011
Prepared for the AGM on Monday 4 April**

Chairman's notes

I have seen the club grow at a ferocious rate over the past five years. When I joined the club a lot of work had been put in place by previous club members/coaches but not always with the time before they left the club for St Andrews to fulfil certain projects. In my time we have had a new hut with electricity and tea/coffee facilities, new equipment such as goals, balls, bibs and rain jackets.

I believe the next stage for the club and my wish for the club going forward is to look at extra storage space, more goals and even the possibility of a Hillside Rovers training kit. A lot of football clubs do this now and could need some contribution from the parents but I believe this is the way forward, maybe not next season or the season after worth bearing in mind for the future.

As chairman this year I believe we have not delivered in certain areas, meeting deadlines is one of those, this is crucial to the club's success, we/you (parents and coaches) need to stick to these or the club could slip into trouble financially and become disorganised. As I've said before, running a club and being part of one is getting more and more demanding and while I understand you are all giving up your time on a Saturday and for some of you a Sunday morning we must still maintain a high standard and commitment.

James, Paul and I would like to thank the committee and the parents for all their support over the last five years. There have been a lot of ups and downs over the years and running a team has been a challenge on and off the football pitch, the job of a coach and running a small club like Hillside is getting more and more demanding and this is something to bear in mind for the future.

John Bagley

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Weather and pitches: snow in December more-or less wiped out football that month, and rain meant training was cancelled one Saturday in January. Those apart, training has gone ahead. The rota of year group coaches for pitch inspections has worked smoothly – or at least if forgotten that was on good playing days. John Bagley's initiative to take a Saturday slot on the 3G Astro turf pitch at the High School has been universally welcomed, with the additional benefit of creating more space and less wear and tear on the pitches at Hillside.

The clubhouse continues to function effectively, if a little cluttered at times, with drinks served there this season a brilliant step forward. It's poor as a changing facility, though as most arrive ready to play that has relatively little impact, and perhaps doesn't account for the lack of girls

taking part. The volume of lost property is staggering and we remind parents that unclaimed items will be recycled at the season's end. The boot box has received plenty of donations of outgrown boots: do many get taken out to be used?

Welfare: club welfare officer Sarah Jeffery was new in post at the start of this season and she has done her job with skill and efficiency, especially the endless paperwork in progressing CRBs, nine so far this year. Child protection is a key part of the FA's four day Level 1 training course for coaches, and is also a training course that the club's welfare officer has to take. There were no serious welfare issues this season though, on occasions, coaches/the committee needed to be aware of the impact of changing family circumstances.

Hillside School: there has been little formal contact with the school, which is broadly supportive and leaves us to get on with what with do. Informal contact includes with caretaker Jim, whose grandson plays in the U10's; Mr Roy occasionally borrows a goal; and the Chairman of Governors, Campbell Rowe, paid a courtesy visit one Saturday. The club paid for verti-draining of the school playing field during autumn half-term, which benefits school sports. We remain welcome at the school, including for the annual Fun Day; it has probably helped us and the school to move our Christmas Party to Thorpe End Village Hall. A discussion document from the club about improving sports facilities at Hillside was received well, but was put on the bank burner in the context of public spending constraints and when initial enquiries showed substantial external funding was unlikely.

www.hillsiderovers.co.uk has remained up to date, mostly updated by me (CD) but increasingly U7 coach Rob Thornley is taking up the reins. There is a new web page on the FA's Respect campaign and the rota for year groups using the 3G Astroturf pitch at the High School is on the pitch inspection rota page. There has been a distinct lack of match reports this year – probably year group coaches need to recruit other parents to write these – and overall the website is probably underused by coaches and parents alike.

FA Charter Standard: Hillside Rovers is proud to be an FA Charter Standard Club. The former thrice-yearly renewal process is now an annual 'health check', which mostly involved online form filling on the Norfolk FA website, notably details of coaches and club officials and training courses completed. Our health check was completed well ahead of the March deadline date. This paperwork and process was straightforward largely due to the number of coaches who have already taken the Level 1 coaches' qualification, and a steady level of participation in FA-run courses during the year. Nonetheless it remains a challenge remains to keep that training going at all age groups, especially with each new U6 year group, and to move towards a bigger range of coaches/assistant coaches attending courses and not just the 'usual suspects'.

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Year group reports

Under 10's (John Bagley)

Last season was a great start to competitive football winning the cup and coming third in the league. Due to that success we were put in a tough league this year and are currently 4th in the league and in the final of the cup for a second year. We had 18 boys registered this year and regular turnouts of about 16 each week, including several new faces to the group this year who have progressed well. We hope that will continue going forward into next season as we want to carry on with the success we have already had, but new signings are needed to strengthen the team to compete with the larger football clubs in the area.

Under 9's (Gary Gannon)

The Under 9's have 31 boys registered this season. They are drawn from virtually all primary schools in the Thorpe area: Hillside, St. Williams, Dussindale, Heartsease and Plumstead. We entered a team in both the North East Norfolk League, playing on Saturdays, and the Norfolk Youth Combination League playing on Sundays. Both teams have enjoyed a successful first competitive season and are on course to finish in the top half of their respective leagues. From a

coaching perspective it has been hard work but we all agree that it has been enjoyable and worthwhile. It has been genuinely satisfying to watch a rabble of crying school children develop into a group of young footballers.

Next season will sadly be our last in Hillside colours and we will be using it to be ready for life with the 'big-boys' playing 11-a-side football for St. Andrews. We feel it is also important to mention that we are fortunate to have a great group of parents, many of who are willing helpers on Saturdays and Sundays. As coaches, our job has been made much easier with this support along with the exemplary line side behaviour and conduct throughout the season. Special mention to Carolyn and Michelle for their help each Saturday morning with the tea and coffee.

Under 8's (Chris Durdin)

Our first year of regular matches – this year with one team in the Norfolk Youth Football Combination – has gone pretty smoothly, with a mix of wins, draws and defeats. However as results are not recorded at this age group, winning was not the top priority for us and we deliberately gave all boys turns at playing in the team, which they did with enthusiasm and increasing skill. Other clubs mostly followed this approach and we have a good relationship with many of these clubs/coaches. With 23 U8's, when there hasn't been an away squad, we have been crowded at training, but have coped OK by splitting the group – all made possible by having a team of five coaches (Colin, Steve, Martin, Edd and myself) plus several other parents helping or being supportive in other ways.

Under 7's (Eliot Barker)

All in all the under 7's team have had a successful year. We have 25 children registered with 20 children attending regularly. We have a range of abilities with one or two newer children joining during the year, after a couple dropped out at the end of last season. In all we are at capacity with the 25 children. We have seen seven lads accepted to play within the PDC programme, of which a number are being invited to play at Academy level on occasions.

We are now running with four coaches myself, Andy Dodds, Paul Tink, and Rob Thornley. Andy and Paul successfully completed their Level 1 coaching certificates during the year. We have a number of supportive parents. We have spent the last few weeks running different teams out against other local teams with various friendly fixtures, in preparation for running more formal team or teams next season. I think we are all looking forward to playing more games next season, and with the help and support of coaches and parents I'm sure we will enjoy the year to come.

Under 6's (Andy Syder)

We have successfully signed up 20 boys with a weekly turn out between 15 and 18. Throughout the season we continue to see new faces attend. The boys are enthusiastic in training and clearly have fun while developing their football skills. The Christmas party was well attended by the U6's and all had a great time. The 3G pitch has been a big success and they all enjoy playing on this surface.

Thanks to Mark Leeming, Mark Jackson, Drill Sergeant Matt Debnam and myself who volunteer their free time to coach the boys. New faces are always welcome to support and work with the coaches. We look forward to continue to build on our success as a team next year.

Written / collated by Chris Durdin, Secretary, Hillside Rovers FC, April 2011