

# Newbury Ladies FC

## Chairman's Report July 2011

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On the field, the season 2010/11 saw a year of mixed fortunes for both the first team and the reserves. The first team maintained their position in the Southern Region but the reserves struggled with the higher standard of the league and unfortunately finished bottom of the league. However, with every cloud there is often a silver lining and in the case of the reserve team this was so. Some battling performances saw them reach the final of the League Plate competition narrowly being beaten by a team from a higher division. Along the way a number of notable scalps were taken. I am sure that the playing side will be reported on in more depth when in Jack and Tony's reports.

Off the field, the Committee worked tirelessly to ensure the Club could continue to function successfully. Since the Annual General Meeting that was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2010, the Committee has met 6 times and there has been an Extraordinary General Meeting convened to adopt the new Club Constitution and Rules.

I would like to pay tribute to the Committee for all their hard work during the past 12 months. I believe that by having formal committee meetings there has been a lot of progress made as everyone has been able to channel and focus all their energies collectively and effectively. I am very fortunate to have been the Chair of a committee of people who have so much experience, contacts and knowledge of football and the local community.

As with all football clubs, there cannot be a club without its players. Unfortunately, having enough players that are committed to play week in, week out, for both teams has been very difficult and both Tony and Jack have really worked hard to ensure as many fixtures as possible have been fulfilled. Sue and Gemma have come up with some extremely good ideas for publicity and bringing the Club to the attention of the local community. Who can forget the fantastic interview Sue gave to Newbury Sound about the Club leading up to the Cup Final! Tony has been working very hard on the sponsorship front and was successful in securing some sponsorship from Eden Vauxhall leading up to the Final. Our finances have been in good hands with our Treasurer Cas and we are getting very sound advice on where we stand financially. And finally, we must pay tribute to Pam Hartley who has now moved away to the 'smoke' of London. Before Pam left us she helped Jack with the website and set up the Facebook page for the Club. Let's hope she can keep in touch and continue with some sort of contribution.

So what of the future? Everyone associated with the Club needs to get as many ladies as possible to sign on with us. We recently held a couple of training sessions where a good number of potential new players came along. The Club may have found a new home in Newbury where both the first and reserve teams can play rather than in different parts of West Berkshire. We are hoping to become an FA Charter Standard Club by the end of the new season. We are aiming to increase our profile within the local community by doing more with the local media and advertise us more effectively. Shortly we will have car stickers and posters available for distribution.

So, all in all a good start for the Committee and the Club but this season will bring fresh challenges and I am sure more hard work will be required from all to ensure Newbury Ladies Football Club can continue and prosper in the future.

Ifor Sheldon  
Chairman