



**Chairperson Report Season Robins FC 2014 AGM      5/1/2015**

**Good evening to Committee Members, Managers and Parent/Guardians**

Welcome to our Annual General meeting.

Personally may I say what an honour it is for me to still be able to serve the club in my 24th consecutive year as Chairperson of Robins FC and Swindon Robins FC and in addition, to have managed and coached for the club over the same period of time.

Furthermore, I would like to offer and pay my respect and compliments and a thank you to all managers and committee members especially to Teresa Trueman who has been resolute in her post and has supported me as the chair over the same period, and during that period has been the clubs secretary. Along with Terry Trueman, their undying support for club and myself has been exceptional, starting from the club's first being formed and initial meetings, which took place in the legends Lounge or as it was then called, the 'Supporters Club' at Swindon Town FC. In addition, Terry's great foresight in Robins becoming one of the first junior football clubs to have its own web page which is why it appears high up in search engine rankings.

**Our working committee** is made up of the Chair, Secretary, Treasure, and managers. In addition, we have added the post of Events Coordinator which Jade Warren has kindly taken on and a position of a parent from each team to liaise with the coordinator. This helps take pressure off the managers so they can

concentrate on coaching their players and the matches and football side of things and adds to the strength and delivery of the committee. The way it has been set up saves the time of these individuals as it is all done via email or text message rather than everyone having to attend meetings. Jade has done a great job in the new post, so far the Curry and Quiz Night and the Christmas party have been successes and we look forward to another successful day out at Swindon Town on our Pro-Red day in April

Robins Football Club and committee structure: committee agreed to meet the first Monday in every month during the season; although we may now go to every two months instead. The committee comprises the following officers:

*Chairman*

Paul Wainwright - 0772 140 8784 e-mail: justkidding@btinternet.com

*Club Secretary & Welfare Officer*

Teresa Trueman - 01793 535574 e-mail: teresa@robinsfc.co.uk

*Club Treasurer*

Alison Paul e-mail: Alison@smjp.co.uk

*Events Coordinator*

Jade Warren - 07769 203464 e-mail: jade\_warren@hotmail.co.uk

and the following team managers:

Under 6- Paul Wainwright 0772 140 8784 justkidding@btinternet.com

Under 7 Red- Trevor Heffernan 0776 9734888 trevorheffernan@yahoo.co.uk or  
Antony Rutzler antony.rutzler@openwork.uk.com

Under 7 White- Philip Trueman 07853 231228 philiptrueman@icloud.com

Under 8 Red- Justin Varndell 07974 102374 justin.varndell@googlemail.com

Under 8 White- Warren Messenger 07873 588738  
warren.messenger@gmail.com or Matt Richards 07889 362277  
matt@tcscontracts.co.uk

Under 9- Paul Wainwright 0772 140 8784 justkidding@btinternet.com

Under 10 Red- Jason Rawlins 0788 431 0816 jasonrawlins@yahoo.co.uk or Paul  
Davis 07887 612127 pdavisuk@gmail.com

Under 10 White- Philip Trueman 07853 231228 philiptrueman@icloud.com

Under 13- Mark Martin 07767 432563 mark.martin@uk.bosch.com

Under 17/18 Tony Smith 0796 300 7924 smithaj@live.co.uk

**How do we start the process of coaching teams?** We work “bottom up” - we find ourselves sandwiched between other junior football clubs, however, we do have a very strong local league to play in and no need to travel many miles for good opposition as we had to do in the past as a club. Alas we do not have our own dedicated ground but we are extremely fortunate to have the use of Lawn Primary school's playing field, which has over the years become our adopted home, something we are extremely grateful for. In turn, we like to think the school has also benefited with the core of the school team often coming from Robins

players. We also benefit from an excellent history, reputation, and one of the oldest established teams in Swindon area and excellent coaches.

However, as the club grows we must remain proactive in looking for additional playing areas. We have just been allowed playing pitches at Commonweal School, which is excellent and have irons in other fires. We hope though to maintain and develop our relationship with Lawn and hope to have teams playing and training there for many years to come.

Our process is to empower and motivate our future players from an early age, we offer training from pre reception last season we have made this more formal by offering a “training membership” so our young players can take ownership and feel very much part of the club – we have witnessed how proud they are of their Robins T-Shirts. In addition, we empower parents to become involved on the coaching side and we support them gaining coaching qualifications.

**Become involved**, be part of the team and the club will pay the cost of the Level 1 coaching course and I'm delighted to say that three coaches have gone on to take their Level 2 badges and Youth Awards. Again the club has supported and in some cases part funded this.

All these processes have started and been developed from our start up training, and here I must offer a big thank you to Tony Smith who has been my right hand man and supported me and these groups for many years in the wind, the rain and indeed the snow! We are seeing the labours of all are our hard work from the start up process to the great work the managers are doing when the team are handed over. When we consider how strong the North Wilts league is currently and the comparative small amount of players we work with, our current track record of successes are quite phenomenal achievements. Well done all. For further information, see our honours page on our web site.

In addition, I know what a difficult job you coaches/managers do, as I am one of you, a hard and sometimes thankless task; however, you are achieving true and honest development in these young players' lives. In the words of Mother Teresa: *“The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it”*

### **Robins FC teams**

(Start up club + nine teams' season 2014/2015)  
Robins FC current range of teams

Under 6s – for children in in School Year 1 or Reception classes in Sept 2014 (5-6 years old).

Under 7s – for children in School Year 2 in Sept 2014 (6-7 years old) – two teams, U7 Red and U7 White

Under 8s – for children in School Year 3 in Sept 2014 (7-8 years old) – two teams, U8 Red and U8 White

Under 9s – for children in School Year 4 in Sept 2014 (8-9 years old)

Under 10s – for children in School Year 5 in Sept 2014 (9-10 years old) – two teams, U10 Red and U10 White

Under 13s – for young players in School Year 8 in Sept 2014 (12-13 years old)

Under 18s - for young players who are 17 or 18 years old

Current Grounds/playing areas: Lawn Primary School, Commonweal Junior School and St Josephs Catholic College.

#### **Fees:**

Start ups £30 (includes T shirt, Christmas Party and end of season Presentation)

Playing teams £130 (includes playing kit, league entry fees, entry to two summer tournaments, Christmas Party and end of season Presentation)

As a club since our inauguration we have historically tried to keep training and match fees low, however, since the added cost of winter training we may need to look at future increases for next season...I have asked and will arrange a finance meeting with Treasure and Secretary to look at this however we will endeavour to try to keep the fees as low as possible.

#### **Charity:**

**Our adopted charity of the year is CALM** I am delighted with this initiative and thank all concerned for making this happen and those teams, players parents and managers who were involved in the collection at Tesco with the CALM collection boxes. As reported on the website, the players' brilliant efforts resulted in us collecting over £700 for local charity CALM. Now we have a thrilling update and are pleased to be able to say that thanks to generous "matched funding" donations from two local companies, the total amount raised has shot up to £1632. Well done. The cheque has been presented to the Chair of CALM, presented at our Christmas Party at the Legends Lounge. As U7s coach Antony Rutzler who organised the collection said in the report on our website:

*"This just shows the amazing effort the Robins boys put in throughout the day and how much the Tesco customers warmed to the boys friendly and charming personalities and the great cause we were raising money for. I cannot thank everyone enough for your invaluable help and support on the day, this tremendous result could not have been achieved without your kindness and commitment". He went on to explain that events like this are an important part of Robins FC playing its role in the community and teaching our young players valuable lessons about the good work they can do in the community. "As well as football skills, we want to teach the players about other walks and skills of life, like teamwork, leadership and community. We want the players to grow up knowing there is more to life than football and to help where they can."*

And I completely concur with these sentiments

**Our food appeal for the homeless at Christmas** as parents know, we collect donations of food at the Christmas party for the local Christmas Care Shelter and this year thanks to your kind donations, we were able to take three very large hampers to the shelter on the Saturday before Christmas.

*"Here at Robins, we never forget that we are part of a wider community. Football is our focus, but community is at our core. We're always mindful of that and helping out with schemes like this is an essential part of that responsibility. Many thanks to all the parents who made the effort to donate food to this excellent shelter at this special time of year".*

### **Events/highlights off the playing field**

Curry and Quiz Night at the Ghurkha Village (£500 raised for the club) thank you to all who helped to organise, donated raffle prizes and attended in addition, the staff of the Ghurkha Village and Adam Wainwright from STFC for being quiz master on the night

### **Future events:**

End of season presentation - date TBC

Race Night? To be arranged September 2015

For more information and updates please see our web page [www.robinsfc.co.uk](http://www.robinsfc.co.uk)

### **Robins going Pro Red again!**

Looking forward to our Pro Red match at the County Ground; when hopefully all the clubs families will attend/and support your children/wards in huge numbers; mums, dads, guardians, granddads grandmothers, uncles, aunts and friends alike to see your sons, daughters, wards and grand children representing Robins FC. All joining in with playing on the hallowed turf of the County Ground, or involved in penalty shootouts, guards of honour and parading the Robins Banner. We have planned for the **Yeovil Town home match on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015** as our "day out" match, for more details of the Pro Red scheme, and how to obtain discounted tickets look out for further details, on our web page.

More excellent performances from all our teams this season with cup/trophy wins already in the bag for the U10s Red, and players in all the teams continuing to show real pride in the club and themselves. Congratulations and thanks to all the managers at Robins FC who's hard work coaching helps players to enjoy and improve in their football.

**May I also take this opportunity to thank all our committee** Teresa Club Secretary, and Alison, our Treasurer, all our managers and coaches, those parents who take the line and referee. Furthermore, all parents who help with the setting up and taking down before and after the game all parents and guardians who support the team so well, all our clubs sponsors without all of you we would not have a club. And, as mentioned previously, Lawn and Commonweal schools for allowing us to play and train on their facilities.

Pleased to say we still have teams of the highest standard representing our club now. In addition, the club is in good health, with a good working committee, I believe we have an excellent secretary and treasurer, added to this our new appointment of Events Coordinator to help to take pressure of off managers, all managers are as per our FA Chartered Standard, are qualified coaches who each have an influence and a place on the committee and workings of the club.

In addition, special thank you for Paul Davis, who looks after our web page and does a cracking job, plus checking (along side Teresa), that we are up to date regarding our Chartered Standard obligations; in addition Jason Rawlins for keeping an eye on our playing surfaces and liaison with the Lawn caretaker – not to mention Howard John, the caretaker in question, who could not be more helpful in ensuring we can continue to use the excellent pitches and field at Lawn. Also Terry James, the Commonweal caretaker who also does a superb job at that school, and the head of PE at Commonweal, Andy Staff for allowing us to use their superb facilities.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year

Paul Wainwright

Chair  
Robins FC

## Appendix 1

### **History of Robins FC**

For those Robins history buffs out there, myself, Terry and Teresa Trueman formed the club in May 1991, with the inaugural meetings held in what is now named the Legends Lounge at the County Ground. I have not just served as the chairperson but since 1991, I have consecutively managed and coached teams during that same period.

The club was first formed to play in the then Swindon and District Minors league to play Saturday morning football and it was a mixture of players from Croft U 11s and players from the Junior Robins (Swindon Town's junior fan club). Our first ever game/match as Robins FC was against ST Josephs YC, resulting in a 10-0 victory, and was played on the County Ground Extension, 100 yards away from the Arkells Stand. This team/squad eventually went on to play on both Saturdays and Sundays, winning the Swindon and District Minors League and Cup Double consecutively from u12's 1991/92 to u15's 1994/95, as well as the Beeline Oxford league, winning League and Cup Doubles during the two seasons they played in that league. In addition, the Wiltshire Cup and two London International Tournaments at U12 and U14s plus many six-a-side tournaments all over the Southwest and as far afield as London and Coventry. Our big job then was to get the trophies engraved and returned a logistical nightmare! Good job at one period I had my own business and could use Parcel force! There was no coaching courses as such back then - my qualifications in sport were my own personal football knowledge, common sense and two Black belts in the martial arts. This first ever team ended at U15s, with our job done - as one of the squad's members was at Lilleshall the then FA training school, seven on Schoolboy forms/contracts at STFC and another squad member was on Schoolboy forms at Bristol City. Sadly none of this squad eventually broke through to play professionally but all developed to this high standard through our club.

During that period this team gave me a win ratio of 99%, the highest I have achieved as a manager however, I have come close with other teams I have managed for the club, in particular the next team I managed, which took from U10 right through to U17. However, when the boys/players were released from Swindon Town, the mainstay of the squad went onto play for the Cirencester Academy and was successful in playing in and winning three National College Cup Finals. In addition, they played friendly matches against top opposition, drawing and a victory over the youth teams of Aston Villa and Liverpool. Two of these players gained trials with the mighty Liverpool FC from this result and their performances.

I'm pleased to say we are still producing winning, and more importantly happy, and successful teams. Recently a Robins U9s team won Division 1 in the North Wilts League, came runners-up the following year and then capped that the year after by winning the U11s Wiltshire FA County Cup. The other U11s team that year won their division for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running, gaining back to back promotions, a terrific achievement for any team.

In recent seasons, Robins teams have featured in the N Wilts U10 League Cup final, the U7s won the @Futsal tournament final, while the U9s were finalists at Christmas then won the Feb tournament a few months later. And more recently, with the introduction of the new "Trophy Events" in Mini-Soccer age groups in the North Wilts Leagues, last season we won Trophy Events at all 3 age groups, U7, U8, and U9 and this season with the expansion of the Trophy Events to U10s, as mentioned previously U10 Reds have already won both their Trophy Events

### **Why the STFC Connection**

The clubs connection with Swindon Town was during the late eighties when I was working as a volunteer dad for the STFC Junior Robins supporters Club. My role was to organise weekly training session and to take club members on away trips to play Football League, and at one time Premiership Clubs; to engage in friendly football matches against their juniors, before the big game. In addition, organise the home return fixtures, this was very popular and successful period and I learnt a lot from my experiential learning opportunities. However, I wanted the talented players to be able to play in a more structured and regular football within their correct age group. Which is where the seeds of Robins FC were sown.

My son Adam who was a Junior Robin went to Croft for trials, was successful, and played there at U11s that is when we meet Teresa and Terry as Terry was managing a very successful Croft side at that time. We merged to offer quality football for our young players in Swindon, and entered the league at the youngest age group of U12. To play in an earlier age group in those days you had to play in other leagues like the Vale of White Horse and District league which started 11 a Side football at U10 (on full size pitches) and played on Sundays.

**Robins have nurtured professional footballers in their ranks:** although that first team, despite all it's successes, did not produce any professional players, later teams did, with Chris Zebroski, Ashan Holgate and Michael Pook all having worn the Robins shirt with pride and gone on to gain professional contracts. In addition, many of our past players have attended Football Schools and Academies of Excellence at Swindon Town, Bristol City, Southampton FC, and Chelsea, as well as some attending the former FA National Training Centre at Lilleshall. The difference then was that professional clubs allowed the players to remain with their parent club to be developed, only providing extra training until



14 years old when they would sign exclusive contracts, not at 9 years old as is the present trend. I personally believe this trend will return to as before.

**Robins FC teams have also played in the following leagues during our history:**

- Mid Wilts League

- Cirencester & District League, Beeline Oxford Boy

- Elsevier Oxfordshire Inter Counties Youth League.

- Vale and District League

- The club also entered an adult team in the Swindon & District Football League under our other affiliated name, Swindon Robins FC.

In addition, the club has organised excellent six a side tournaments with teams attending from all over the country. We have gone on tour playing at different Summer and Easter festivals, my own teams' record was excellent - four finals, three wins and one runners up (against teams from all over the UK).

It is good to know our history and past but not to dwell in it. We must look to the future and I'm pleased to say that today we have a thriving club with many talented teams.

For further information please look on the History/Honours page [www.robinsfc.co.uk](http://www.robinsfc.co.uk)

A big thank you to the vision and foresight of Terry Trueman as we were one of the first junior teams to have our own web page.

Paul Wainwright