

Willand Rovers Football Club

As for most businesses, the past year has again been difficult for Willand Rovers! The ongoing effect of the pandemic, the war in the Ukraine, escalating utility prices and spiralling inflation have all conspired to make trading conditions difficult for us.

We did however manage to complete our first full season in the Southern Football League, finishing just below mid-table in a very competitive competition. This achievement is quite incredible in the context of the level of football we are now competing in and the stature of most of the teams we play each week, many of which have generous benefactors and eye-watering weekly budgets to fund their team and facilities. We are under no illusion that we are a very small fish in a very big sea in the Southern League so it is a credit to the management team and players that we compete so well with our illustrious peers and to our off-field volunteers that help to maintain our superb club facilities to such a high standard.

Throughout the past year we have continued to upgrade and improve both our on-field and off-field facilities. Projects of note this year are renewal of many of our 6m high ball-stop nets to the pitch perimeter, new fencing along Orchard Way and the installation of a borehole for pitch irrigation. These improvements continue to enhance further the experience for all visitors, players and general community users of the Club.

We have again held some successful events during the past year: events to raise funds for the late Kirk Frost's "Kindness for Kirk" charity; "live music" nights featuring local bands Stillyano and K2; a superb New Years Eve Party with the stunning covers band Turnette Doone. We will be hosting live bands on a regular basis through the next twelve months so keep an eye on our website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram streams for dates and ticketing information.

We strive for the football club to be seen as a valuable community asset. We would welcome anyone in the local area, and particularly residents of Willand, to make use of the excellent facilities we have at the Club.

The facilities that are available include a licenced bar, skittles alley and kitchen facilities: The clubhouse can be booked for parties, discos, live-band functions, christening celebrations, wakes, business meetings, skittles matches and for regular meetings of any group or organisation. For more details and to check availability please email willandroversfc@outlook.com or call 01884 33885.

We can comfortably accommodate 150 guests at parties with a disco or live-band, and up to 100 guests at formal sit-down functions.

Why not come in and see us to watch a match, have a social swift-half with us on a Friday (the bar is open every Friday afternoon from 4pm and on matchdays) or just to inspect the facilities we have: You can always be assured of a very friendly and warm welcome, and you may be surprised what we have to offer!

I would close by thanking all the volunteers that give freely of their time to help manage and sustain the Club, the corporate and personal sponsors without whose generosity we would not be able to compete at the level we now play, the players and football management team for giving the village something to be proud of, and to our supporters who turn up in all weathers to support the players.

We would love to see some new faces at the Club, and we look forward to welcoming you and your families into our Silver Street home in the very near future: We're sure you will enjoy your visit.

Mike Hawkins

Chairman, Willand Rovers Football Club