

## BURTON F.C. REPORT TO BURTON PFA 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

I have been involved with grassroots local football for many years and I cannot remember a season like 2019/20 which was totally destroyed by persistent heavy rain creating waterlogged pitches, and in the latter stages the lockdown resulting from the virus. We managed to play only half our scheduled number of games and with this pattern repeated across the country the FA nationally declared the season for all local amateur clubs to be null and void.

The situation has not improved at the time of writing with the lockdown still imposed with the possibility of it being relaxed in the near future for the majority of local team sports currently looking well down the list of government priorities. There is a very real danger that the lockdown, relating to local team sports, could still be in place well into late autumn, inflicting real damage on the forthcoming 2020/21 football season.

Some consideration also needs to be given to the effect the problems described above are having on the motivation of regular club players. Will they have found other interests during this extended period of inactivity and /or will they consider with group participation that there is still a danger of being struck down by the virus?. The situation is untested and we can only hope that the nucleus of our club, who have remained loyal over the years, will still want to play football.

An added concern is how the inactivity of last season will impact on the number of teams playing football in our Leicester and Charnwood Sunday League. The position prior to the lockdown looked very encouraging with several new clubs expressing interest in joining the League but whether that will be carried through to League affiliation remains to be seen.

Our club finances remain sound and we plan to buy a new first team kit for the coming season. Whether we shall wear it is another matter! Our thanks go to Burton PFA for waiving the half yearly 2019/20 pitch fee in the light of the very limited number of games played in the period and the associated reduction in club revenue from player match fees. We sincerely hope our present sponsor will continue to support us next season but are concerned that being a publican his premises have been closed since the lockdown was implemented in mid -March

We welcome Phoenix F.C junior sides to Sunday mornings at Towles Field but stress with that the ongoing measures to combat the virus there will need to be careful planning of fixtures by respective Leagues to ensure that both teams are not at home at the same time and the number of spectators are kept to an absolute minimum

Apologies for the negativity in the above comments but these are difficult times

Brian Bunn  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Burton (on the Wolds) F.C.  
6th May 2020