

AGM

ST ANTHONYS FOOTBALL CLUB
THURSDAY 30th JUNE, 2011

AGENDA

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Chairperson's Report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Election of Committee

Nominations Received

Motions Received

Open discussion (at Chairperson's discretion)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The past couple of years have been very difficult, with current economic constraints and rising unemployment all adding to the financial pressures of running any sports club. The number one priority of any club in the current environment is one of survival. There are many bigger clubs than ours in the greater Wicklow area who may not be in a position to field teams next year and some may not even exist.

I'm glad to say that St Anthony's Kilcoole will continue to survive and grow over the next few years as we have a clear plan of what we want to achieve and have been prudent in our financial planning. Obviously, we would like to develop and improve the club facilities but in the current circumstances the number one priority is to be able to provide football for the current 230 members in the club. Therefore registration fees will remain at the same level as last year and have not been increased for the past 3 years.

Committee Matters

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee for all their hard work and commitment over the year. All of the members of the committee give up their time voluntarily and a considerable amount of the work is often done in the background and sometimes goes unnoticed by those looking in from the outside. Most of the committee have dual roles in the club and this is testament to the pride and interest that they have in the club's future. We have received nominations from three people who have expressed their willingness to become members of the committee and this will bring the committee up to its required number of 12.

Football

The season kicked off in August with the club fielding 5, 11-a-side teams and 4 Super 7's teams. The Academy released another under 8 team under the guidance of James Evans and Ian Longmore which proved to be very successful and we would hope to do the same again next season as the Academy continues to grow.

There was some great success with the schoolboy teams which the secretary will elaborate on in his report but I would like to congratulate all the teams in the club for participating with great pride over the season and giving 100%. It was very satisfying to see the Senior Team under the guidance of Gay Downes and Mark Travers completing the season despite having to play a league above following the withdrawal of the Premier team last season. It was equally satisfying seeing the return of Koen Verbruggen who resurrected the former Under 15/16 and managed them in a new Under 17's league last year.

Aviva Stadium – Fundraiser

Some people expressed concern at our plans to sign up for the Aviva Vantage Club Scheme with the FAI. As discussed at various meetings and at the AGM last year this fundraiser will provide a much needed source of income for the club over an 8 year period. I'm delighted to confirm that we sold over 430 tickets last year and we are more than confident of reaching our target of 500 ticket sales this year.

We had tremendous support from all members of the club, the local community and some of the local businesses. I would like to say a special thanks to Noel Morrissey and Michael Byrne who canvassed all the local businesses in the area and received a great response. No parent or member of the club was forced to buy tickets they all sold or purchased tickets voluntarily and were fully behind this initiative.

All managers will soon receive a pack containing a letter to parents including their 2 tickets for next year along with a list of winners from last year and a list of the current events confirmed for next season's draw. The club gave a commitment to all members that this would be the only fundraiser that the club would run on an annual basis and we are committed to this to avoid over burdening parents and members financially in these difficult times.

I would like to thank Barry Sheehan for his help and assistance in the graphic design and production of tickets, posters and marketing material for the above draw.

Pitch & All Weather Maintenance

As I said at the start of my report the priority for the club is to provide football for the members of the club therefore funds are firstly allocated to the payment of registration, insurance, sports equipment and general maintenance of the current football pitches.

Unfortunately due to financial constraints we were unable to carry out any surface maintenance on the all-weather facility, once funds become available this will be a priority for the committee.

We have scheduled the repair and replacement of some of the lighting on the all-weather facility over the summer months.

I would like to thank Noel Morrissey for his work on replacing the doors and the building of a ramp on the container for the lawnmower.

Over the winter months the top pitch once again was flooded badly and has once again seen considerable subsidence. The Wicklow County Council contacted the club and has informed us that an Environmental Mapping of the pitch was carried out by local engineers on the site of the dump. We were informed not to carry out any more remedial work on the surface as it was quite evident that the subsidence problem would still persist.

A considerable amount of money in the region of over €60,000 has been spent on the surface over the years by previous committees with no guarantee on the work carried out. Therefore we have decided to keep the grass cut and use the pitch for training purposes only. I would like to thank Jim Kelly the current grounds man for all his hard work on maintaining the main pitch in Finn Park and keeping the top pitch in order for the small sided games and training.

Club Developments

The development grant of €15,000 for additional dressing rooms which was granted to the club back in 2007 was successfully obtained by Mary Malone and Anthony Bradley last year. The planning approval was granted in late January 2011 following a request for some revised work on the plans submitted.

One of the conditions of the approval was for an up-front payment of 30% of the actual cost of the dressing rooms before any work could be carried out. This would have meant the club borrowing up to €6,300 to meet this requirement.

The committee of the club decided against this course of action and following discussions between the club treasurer Jim Stafford and Lillian Murphy from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport they have agreed that the grant can be drawn down in stage payments.

Shared Access

In September 2010 the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources Eamon Ryan launched an innovative telecoms partnership between Shared Access a leading US telecoms infrastructure provider, and the Football Association of Ireland which will see Shared Access provide funding for floodlights to local clubs in return for the ability to erect telecoms structures.

The initiative announced could extend to up to 500 local football clubs throughout Ireland with a minimum investment of €30 million by Shared Access which will result in world class shared telecoms resources being located in urban and rural areas around the country.

The club has entered into discussions with Shared Access for the installation of floodlighting on the main pitch in Finn Park with no actual cost to the club.

Barbeque & Presentation Day

The annual barbeque was again a great success and a very enjoyable day was had by all who attended. The MC on the day Freddie Hamilton ran everything like a military operation. The date for this years barbecue has been set for the 17th of July and we have decided to alter the format for this year by including a fun fair and games element to proceedings for the day which will mean more involvement from parents and members and I hope to see all parents, players and managers there for what is always a great day.

Summer Soccer Camp

The club decided to run a Summer Soccer Camp for Boys & Girls aged between 5 and 13 years of age for a week last year which was a great success with over 70 children participating. I would like to thank the following coaches for their involvement over the week, Ian Longmore, Ferghal O'Neill, Noel Morrissey, Dave Hunt and a special thanks to the head coaches Aidan Ryan and Declan McGee.

Unfortunately the majority of the coaches are un-available this year but the club has availed of the services of Willd Summer Soccer Camp under the supervision of ex- FAI Coach Co-ordinator Paul Sheridan and we will be running a soccer camp for children aged 5 to 15 from Monday 11th July to Friday 15th July from 10.30 each morning until 3 o'clock each day. The cost per child is €69.00 and applications are available from the club. The club will receive a fee of €10.00 per child that attends the summer camp..

Club Web Site

I would like to thank Mary & Declan Magee for the fantastic work and development of the Club's Website which can be found at www.kilcoole.net . The site is updated on a regular basis and is a great source of information on what's going on in the club. I would encourage all managers and members of the club to contribute to the content of the website so that everyone in the club can share in news, events and generally find out what's going on in the club.

I would like to once again thank all the committee members, managers, assistants and parents for their help over the season and hope that you enjoy your break and I look forward to working with you all again in the new season.

Yours in Sport

**Tony Farrell
Club Chairman.**