

Goring Robins Football Club

Fees and Reserves Policy (Set at AGM June 2007)

Introduction

Goring Robins Football Club (the Club) is run by volunteers for the benefit of the youth and children of Goring and surrounding villages. The constitution of the Club provides for it to be run by a committee comprising of an elected Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary together with other officials elected from time to time such as Team managers, Membership Secretary, Social Secretary etc. The Committee has a fiduciary duty with regard to the liabilities that it incurs on behalf of the Club to ensure that sufficient funds are available to pay the fees costs and expenses incurred in a timely manner and to ensure that the Club remains solvent at all times. In the event of insolvency or the club being unable to pay any of it's liabilities the members of the committee could be held personally liable to contribute to the assets of the Club. The Club has created and requires that all members agree to accept and abide by various Codes of Conduct and in return the Club aspires to ensure that facilities are maintained in good condition and that officials receive appropriate training. Over many years since the formation of the club in 1973 there has been a continual discussion of the most appropriate way to fund Club activities. The purpose of this document is to record the current policy with regard to funding and the setting of membership fees.

Sources of Funding

Sources of funding are available from the following:

Membership subscriptions

Match fees

Social Functions

Grants

Sponsorship

This document is only concerned with an explanation of club policy with regard to membership fees and match fees although it should be noted that grants are applied for whenever possible and sponsorship is regularly obtained from local business and other institutions.

Social Events

Other recent years it has been the policy of the club to arrange two social events each season to raise money for the Club. Arranging such events is extremely time consuming for those involved and of themselves involve the commitment to expenditure that must be recovered from attendance fees, raffles at events, profit from running a bar etc. In recent years the numbers of members willing to volunteer to assist in running such events has fallen considerably and therefore the burden has fallen on fewer dedicated members. On a number of occasions attendance at events has also been disappointing which in turn risks the possibility of such events not being profitable but instead being a drain on limited resources.

Match Fees

It is the policy of some youth clubs to charge children a 'match fee' for each game in which they play either for the full length of the game or as substitute. The Club do not wish to adopt such a policy as it is considered divisive and over burdensome for a limited number of Club officials who have many matters to consider on match days.

Services to be provided

In considering the creation of a fees and reserves policy the Club has considered what is to be provided by members. Many youth football clubs, based on anecdotal evidence, charge fees that are considerably higher than the Clubs current charges, in some case being over twice the Clubs current level. On investigation the higher fees were found to be associated with a greater provision of kit including Club jerseys, sweat shirts etc. The Officials of the Club do not consider it appropriate to provide such items other than on a self funding basis if requested by particular age groups.

The Club committee does consider that the total income to be derived from fees should cover the major expenses of the Club being provision of match day kit, pitch hire, provision of match officials (if volunteers cannot be sourced), league and match fees, training and match equipment (eg goal posts, nets and corner posts, training and match balls, bibs and training cones) and training of officials. During discussions at the AGM and on advice received from the current Club Treasurer (a Chartered Accountant), league and FA Officials and other members of the committee with business experience it is considered prudent that a balance in hand equating to one years basis overheads should be retained and that subscriptions should always be increased by a minimum of the prevailing rate of inflation.

It is also noted that as all Club officials, coaches and managers provide their time without charge the fees that are charged by the Club are extremely low in comparison to other activities for children (e.g. swimming, dance, tennis and drama lessons)

Policy

Having regard to the above the policy of the Club with regard to membership fees is

To increase fees each year by at least the rate of inflation.

To maintain cash in hand that is sufficient to pay one year's overheads

To allow Managers in exceptional circumstances to apply to the Committee for a reduction or abatement of subscriptions for individual children