



After some positive feedback last season welcome again to our pre-season newsletter and supporter update. Those of you who remember last year's newsletter will recall that we were very much hoping that this season would be our very last at the Moat Ground and at this stage last season that was very much our hope. Things haven't quite worked out that way and we provide an update over the page on the very latest which will bring you all to date with where we are with things. Rest assured we are still fully focused on realising the dreams of our long-awaited move to a new home, we just need to navigate a few more issues first! Hopefully you will notice that the Moat Ground has had a little refresh over the summer in an attempt to brighten the place up. All of the work has been done through the hard work of directors and volunteers during recent weeks at minimal cost through donations of materials, the generosity of board members and many hours volunteering from our amazing band of volunteers without whom we simply could not function as a club. Thankyou to everyone who has contributed. We hope you find the info

contained in this newsletter informative and useful and as always welcome any feedback you have on this or any other aspect of the club. Feel free to stop me or any of our directors any at any time or send us an email via our info@gresleyrovers.com email address with any comments or feedback you have.

Gary Norton, Chairman, Gresley Rovers Football Club

Next Fans Forum Date Set

As we near the kick off to the new league season I'm sure you are all keen to hear from Carl and Tommo on their hopes and aspirations this season. You all have the opportunity to ask them some questions at our next scheduled supporters forum which is being held in Harrys Bar. The date for this is **Tue 1st Aug immediately ahead of our friendly game against Hednesford Town – 6.15pm start.**

You will have the chance to hear from the clubs board of directors on things behind the scenes including the new ground revised planning/ progress as well as the First team management who will be ready to answer any questions you might have on the playing side of the club. Our Supporter Forums are normally very informative and open sessions so feel free to come along, get involved and ask any questions you might have ahead of the season kicking off.



SUPPORTERS CLUB



Well, it's soon here again. Within the blink of an eye, we will be raising the curtain on the 23-24 season with an away game at Cambridge City. Based on what we've seen so far through pre-season were in for one hell of a ride again with a team looking to play exciting passing football and not afraid to mix it up when required. We have not rested on our laurels throughout the close season and by the time you will be reading this the supporter's club will have raised close on £2000 through various fund-raising initiatives that you continue to support in your numbers. We've seen blackout cards sold out in less than a week and great interest in our Race Night, all this whilst maintaining a fully sold out 100 club. This has been nothing short of amazing, so thank you all from the Supporters Club.

We will also be running the Super 6 this season and hopefully a football blind pick game. There will be several events running throughout the year, and we hope to share the calendar of these with you very soon. All these ideas have come from fellow supporters and continue to bring in much needed revenue to the club.

If you are interested in joining the Supporters Club as a member or part of the committee please get in touch and we will give you as much information as possible. See you all very soon!
(Steve)



We need your help!



We are on the lookout for volunteers to help out on Reserve team match days. Much of the time due to the first team playing away most of our board or volunteers are also away meaning we are short of support at Reserve team matches. We will be exploring some Friday night games during in the new Nottingham Senior league the Reserves will be playing in this season which will help but we still need more people to help if possible. Tasks range from Gate staff, Stewarding, looking after ballboys and liaising with opposition and officials amongst other things. If you think you can help then please speak to one of the team or send an email to info@gresleyrovers.com

Update from the commercial team

Over the summer we have been out getting ready for the new season. With sponsorship deals acquired for kits throughout all the age groups including the girls and ladies teams.

We are having a great response to sponsoring players and board members, with a healthy take up from the community and local businesses. It would be nice to have a full house so please consider sponsoring a player or official of the club. Match day sponsorship are also flying out the window, in what is a very fair priced day of fun at the Moat ground. We are still looking for ball sponsors and mascots and if you fancy that, give us a shout and we will arrange it for you.

We are looking for more advertisers in the programme, which again is great value and an ideal way to build your business and network. We will also be trialling selling merchandise at the outside bar during match days, which will hopefully help out with club shop opening hours. We will be stocking some shirts, scarves, hats and other merchandise, all at great prices. If you want to sponsor the club or find out more then please go to the club website and follow the link under "The Club" and sponsor us.
Corby and Bryan (Commercial Directors)



SUMMER GROUND WORKS

During the summer break we have been busy doing some maintenance and improvements to the Moat ground ahead of what will be its 114th season (moved here in 1909)

Amongst over 100 jobs listed the main stand has been completely repainted, Home dressing room refurbished (see pic) and away dressing rooms repainted. Our hospitality area and outside bar areas have also had much improvement work completed as has the car park area. We have been very fortunate in having many of the materials donated or subsidised which covered much of the costs for these improvements but we couldn't have done anything without the HUGE amount of volunteer hours invested by many people connected with the club. We wish to place on record our huge thanks to everyone who spent their free time helping – it really is appreciated and a great example of what a brilliant community we operate within.

You will also notice the HUGE improvement in the playing surface of the Moat ground. Countless hours have been spent during the last couple of months by our small team of volunteers led by vice chairman Stuart Bonser who's extensive experience over the years is very evident in the improvements we have seen in recent months. The pitch has not been in as good a condition as this for many many years and we hope that the players from all our teams appreciate the hard work put in by the team along the way in making this happen.



NEW GROUND UPDATE

It's fair to say that frustrations around our plans to move to a new stadium have reached new levels over the last 12 months or so since our last pre-season newsletter. As those of you who attended our fans forum update a few months back will know a series of further unexpected barriers have cropped up related to our most recent planning application (submitted in Feb 2022) on the land (Main St) we have been trying to move to since the early 90's (see pic below). A couple of those issues in particular have meant that our plans have had to have a major revamp / reduction in scope as we adjust to revised and available funding caps via the various grant and funding bodies we are working with. That said, many of the barriers have been navigated and we are still inching forwards towards getting our application to the planning committee for a final decision. There are however still a couple of major obstacles that remain. More specifically in relation to how we fund removal of the Japanese Knot weed present on the land and most importantly how we meet the legislative requirements on Bio Diversity Net Gain which is likely to run into unexpected costs as much as **several hundred thousand pounds**. We are currently working with the council to find a viable resolution on both of these issues to allow the project to move forwards and will know more in the next few weeks on our possible options and next steps.

In the background in recent months, and given these developments, we have reviewed another option if needed but our main efforts have been very much focused on the current Main St/Albert Village site and trying to get that over the line. As an example, last month we submitted to the planning authorities the final survey that was required (Reptile and Invertebrate) which cost the club £3000 at a time when income during the summer months is non-existent. There have been various other related costs the club have had to find each month in order to keep the work needed moving forwards such as Architect fees for drawing amendments requested by the planning authorities and monthly planning consultancy fees. This has proven difficult during the time of year we have no income coming in but we have somehow managed it. On that subject you will see various activities aimed at raising funds to support the club and these are vital if we are to continue moving forwards both off the pitch trying to get that long awaited new stadium and of course on the pitch whilst we remain at the Moat. As such, your support with ant of our fund-raising attempts is vital



Picture shows the land we want to move to in 1996 – after much work had already been done in preparation for a new stadium. This is now completely overgrown and unrecognisable

GRESLEY ROVERS GIRLS



GRESLEY ROVERS ACADEMY UPDATE

Just 12 months ago, the **Gresley Rovers Girls** section of the club was formed. The growth that the section has experienced has been nothing short of amazing!!

Providing girls only football, we now have **over 150 girls** aged 4 to 14 training each week. In addition to this for the 23/34 season we will also have four teams competing in the Derby Girls League.

With new girls joining weekly, we are always looking for additional help whether it be to find new coaches, or team managers.



If this is something you could help with then please get in touch with anyone at the club. Over the next 12 months our aim is to have a training group / team for every school year and become known locally as the best Girls team to go to if your daughter or granddaughter wants to start playing girls only football. 😊😊😊

Our **Gresley Rovers Boys academy** is ready for another season of coaching our players from under 13's to the reserve squad.

Our academy has been in place since 2014 to create a pathway through to our first team, having a non-league academy full of confident young footballers who enjoy playing an exciting brand of football.

As we have progressed through the years, we have seen more and more players being given the opportunity to train with the first team. There have been a few changes for this season within coaching staff with Zack Yates moving from our u16's into leading our new u13's groups, being assisted by Noah Simpkin. Within our u18's and reserves there have also been changes, with Matt Toulson moving across as Joint head coach of the reserves alongside Ricky Adams. This has meant the u18's are now being led this season by Ian Parker and Connor Adams.

These are really exciting times for the academy, with the reserves moving into a new league this season. They will be playing in the Nottinghamshire Senior League, which Step 7 of the non-league pyramid. This will give our players even more of a challenge but help to push players quality in readiness for first team football.

Keep a watch out for the reserves fixtures at The Moat Ground we plan to try and hold a few on Friday nights this season and it would be great to see supporters at games if you can!



GRESLEY ROVERS LADIES



Gresley Rovers Ladies FC is a brand-new section within the ever growing Gresley Rovers family. Welcoming ladies from 15 years plus, the club offers weekly training and competitive league games from their own ground in Castle Gresley, Derbyshire.

Football fan, Craig Hill, had been helping to coach a local Girls team and after realising his passion to teach, support and grow the Girls game, he, along with his daughter, Georgia, decided to kick start Gresley Rovers Ladies FC at the start of March 2023.

With interest starting to build, having a great parental support and with the help of Simon Gara and Matt Toulson we set the wheels in motion. By the end of March, they had secured their own ground locally, complete with changing rooms. Our ladies' section has been supported by a set of great sponsors helping provide the team kit and ready for matches.

The team has gone from strength to strength, building momentum along the way. From this initial set up, a newly formed open age group with over 25 Adult's is now also ready to start the 2023/24 season. The ladies section offers a great opportunity for our Gresley Rovers Girls to progress into adult football, as well as welcoming new players with a mix of abilities. Training takes place on Wednesday and Friday nights at the Mount Pleasant Recreational Ground, Castle Gresley. For more information or to register your interest please contact Craig via email on "manager.gresleyladies@gmail.com" or check out the social media accounts.

