

## **SOUTHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB CLUB STRUCTURE, ETC.**

We set out below, in Q&A format and in plain terms, details of the Club structure, land ownership, finances, etc..

If anyone has any questions on this, please contact the Committee directly via email on: [secretary@southamunited.com](mailto:secretary@southamunited.com)

### **Q WHO / WHAT IS SOUTHAM UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**

**A** We are an unincorporated members club, which was originally formed in 1905.

We are an FA accredited Charter Standard Club and are an accredited Wildcats Centre for Girls Football.

We are registered with HMRC as a Community Amateur Sports Club ("CASC"), meaning that in respect of any personal donations to the Club we can claim additional Gift Aid payments from the government.

We are managed by a Committee who are elected annually.

None of the Committee receives any salary or fee, etc. in respect of their work as Committee Members.

All managers / coaches / volunteers are required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check before being allowed to work with U18's and are encouraged to take at least the FA Level One coaching qualification and many develop beyond this level as part of their professional development.

One of our coaches, Sophie Bourton, was awarded the Grassroots Coach of the Year Award by Birmingham County Football Association in 2019.

### **Q WHAT PROPERTY DOES THE CLUB OWN / LEASE**

**A** The Trustees of Southam United Football Club own the freehold on approx 10 acres of land (which was purchased for £1.00) and the buildings located at Bobby Hancocks Park.

In addition, they lease the 9.32 acres of land, which comprises the "junior" pitches from the completely unrelated Southam United Charities.

## Q WHO / WHAT ARE THE TRUSTEES

A The Trustees are Charles Hill, Katie Hill and Sophie Bourton and they own the land and buildings, and enter into leases, under trust on behalf of Southam United Football Club.

They have no personal beneficial interest in the land and buildings. Please refer to the attached letter from the Club solicitors, Messrs Blythe Liggins.

The Trustees do not receive any remuneration for acting as trustees.

## Q WHAT WAS THE REASON BEHIND THE SALE OF THE OLD BANBURY ROAD GROUND AND THE MOVE TO BOBBY HANCOCKS PARK

A. The old facilities, comprising some 3.94 acres, were expensive and difficult to maintain and operate and we were continually struggling to comply with FA ground grading requirements.

There was a split between the junior and senior “sections” of the Club as well as clashes with the Bowls Club.

The Club started negotiations in 1995 with Bloor Homes, the adjoining landowners and other interested parties with a view to attaining new facilities as part of an overall development.

From the Club’s perspective, the aim was to get new, fully fitted out, purpose built facilities which would be the Hub for the whole Club that would be easier to maintain and operate and give the Club the opportunity of diversifying its income streams as well as providing its members and the wider community facilities they could be proud of.

However, the re-routing of the proposed HS2 railway line caused the overall scheme to be cut back and reduced the amount of value that Bloor Homes were able to allocate to the new facilities. Planning Committee approval was granted in August 2014 but not fully documented until October 2015.

The final sale and purchase agreement attributed a value to the old ground of £2.5 million but the Trustees / Club did not receive this amount of cash. Rather the amount was retained by Bloor Homes and used to build the facilities and infrastructure, within their own timescale, now located at Bobby Hancocks Park.

In fact, the cost of these facilities incurred by Bloor Homes was in excess of £3 million with the additional amount being absorbed by them.

#### Q WHY HAS THE HUB BUILDING NOT BEEN FITTED OUT AND EXTENDED AS PER THE EXISTING PLANNING PERMISSION

A. A number of factors have contributed to this but, quite simply, the main one is that there has been a considerable delay in the receipt of the non repayable grant funding arranged by the Chairman from private sources.

This multi million pound grant will provide the Club with sufficient cash to fund its planned capital investment programme as well as to provide sufficient working capital until such time as the Club becomes self sustaining.

Pending receipt of this grant funding, the Chairman has provided the Club with funding as and when his own cash flow has permitted.

This personal funding has included underwriting the professional fees of the various consultants necessarily engaged in preparations for the fit out of the Hub building.

The overall grant funding has now been re-confirmed and will be available to the Club to draw on shortly.

#### Q WHO / WHAT IS SOUTHAM UNITED FC (2019) LIMITED

This limited company was established in 2019 to be responsible for the running of the newly reconstituted Men's and Women's football teams.

It is owned by two of the Club Trustees, Sophie Bourton and Katie Hill, who are its two Directors.

It has its own finances, separate from those of the Club, and as such pays 100% of any and all expenses related to these two teams, including in the future making contributions to the main Club for the use of facilities at Bobby Hancocks Park.

It was created to clearly demonstrate and put to bed once and for all the false impression that somehow the "junior" part of the Club subsidised the "senior" part of the Club.

It does not, and is not intended to, own any land or buildings.

To date, this company has been 100% funded by Charles Hill personally but will shortly be receiving a substantial equity investment in the form of non-voting shares from the same source as the grant funding referred to above.

The voting shares will always be owned by Club Trustees meaning that, on behalf of the Club, they will always be in control of this company.