

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Leisure & Amenities 19th September 2023

Football Development Report

Summer Football Camps 2023

The Council & Cambourne Town Football Club co-hosted 6 weeks of Holiday Football Camps for 5–13-year-olds, both Boys & Girls. The Camps first started in May Half-Term where we trialled the Holiday Camps and they were a great success with 160 bookings across the 4-day Camps.

This Summer, we provided similar opportunities for children in and around Cambourne by delivering the Football Camps from 10am – 3pm every day. This provided a cheap childcare option but also an opportunity for children to stay off their games consoles and get out of the house in a safe and structured environment led by qualified coaches. Over the 6 weeks, we aimed to gain 800 bookings which would have averaged around 133 bookings a week. We managed to beat this target significantly by hitting 960 bookings over the 6 weeks which averaged at 160 bookings per week. One week during the Holidays, we reached over 200 bookings.

During week 5 of the Holidays, we delivered a Girls Only & Goalkeeper Specific Camp. Originally, this wasn't planned but due to the uptake of Girls on the Camps in the first couple of weeks as well as the excitement building around the Women's FIFA World Cup, we felt this was an opportunity to allow Girls to play together without the potential anxiety and self-pressure which can sometimes occur when playing with Boys.

Women's FIFA World Cup 2023

The Women's World Cup this year was one to celebrate with England reaching the Final and so many young Girls being inspired by their progress. As mentioned above, we delivered a Girls Only Football Camp to help celebrate and support Girls Football in Cambourne.

We also provided a Breakfast Club option during the Holidays where the Sports Pavilion was used to allow children to arrive early, watch England play and enjoy a bacon roll or sausage bap during the game. This was convenient for parents who start work early and needed to drop their children off. This also encouraged children to celebrate England's success where many of them wore their England kits and had their faces painted with England colours! Credit to Melanie Hadley & Emma Smith from Cambourne Town Football Club for volunteering to open 'The Dugout' and provide this food & drink option for children.

The FA also celebrated the 'Big Football Day' which we hosted during the Holidays when England played China. Again, this initiative was to celebrate Football in England and particularly the Women's Game which continues to grow both nationally and internationally.

Lastly, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire visited the Sports Pavilion during the World Cup when England played to witness our Football Camps and how we were celebrating the

Women's World Cup. We featured on the Radio which was fantastic publicity for the Football Club, the Council Facilities, and the Town as a whole.

Cambourne Town Football Club, County & National Award 2023

Cambourne Town Football Club celebrated a Double success this Summer as they won Cambridgeshire FA's Grassroots Club of the Year followed by the biggest award available for grassroots clubs when they won FA England's National Grassroots Club of the Year Award for 2023. This is a huge achievement for the Football Club, The Council, and the entire Town. I feel this is a huge confirmation that the decision from the Council & the 5 Football Club's at the time to merge and become Cambourne Town Football Club was the correct choice and now we have been placed on the map as the Number One Grassroots Football Club in the Country. Congratulations is deserving to everyone involved.

Disability Provision Progress

As highlighted in my previous report, we are working hard to ensure we can provide provisions for all abilities, backgrounds & genders.

Sessions for disability groups are high on the agenda and progress is being made to ensure we provide this as soon as possible.

I have conducted a few meetings now and we are close to finalising two weekly sessions for Pan Disability, one will run on a Wednesday afternoon, and one will run on a Thursday afternoon. Details are still being finalised, but I aim to have these confirmed by the next meeting. This will ensure Cambourne Town is a more well-rounded sporting Hub for the local area and ensures we cater for all backgrounds and maximise participation and accessibility to the sport.

Football Centre Launch

Following the Development Centre sessions, we provided on a trial basis during May & June, we have opted to continue this session due to the popularity but tweak the structure of the session. The name has changed to Football Centre to make it appear more accessible. With the preferable use of the 3G over the MUGA for space and quality of surface, the sessions have moved to the 3G from 4-5pm on a Tuesday & Wednesday to allow more space and therefore more children to be able to play.

UEFA C Course, Venue Hire

The FA have confirmed their booking of our 3G facility and Sports Pavilion building for the UEFA C Course which is the second course on the coaching qualification pathway for Football Coaches. This allows coaches to enhance their qualifications and knowledge of the game to help further develop and support their players. By having it on our doorstep, we make it much easier and accessible for coaches to join this course

and it also benefits the Council. These courses will be running from November – January and then February to April.

Annual Football Tournament 2023

The Football Club hosted its Annual Grassroots Football Tournament over the weekend of the 2nd & 3rd September which was hosted across the 3G pitch and all the Grass Football Pitches. Over 130 teams & over 2,000 people from across the Country attended with the Boys Tournament taking place on Saturday and the Girls Tournament taking place on Sunday. The annual Tournament plays a vital role in raising crucial funds for the Football Club but also helps celebrate local football on our doorstep, bringing teams, managers, parents, players, and volunteers together. There was glowing feedback from those involved with many highlighting the fantastic facilities we have in Cambourne and how well maintained the pitches, facilities and surrounding areas are.

Rehabilitation Sessions in Partnership with Royal Papworth Hospital

An initiative that is in its early stages of discussions but looking optimistic, is a Rehabilitation Session aimed at those currently in recovery from Hospital whether through illness, surgery or medication which requires a level of rehabilitation and support following a spell in Hospital. This session would be during the day and would be a Walking Football Session which is a slower pace and is non-contact to reduce any possibility of injury, falling over or accidents.

This would help support the Hospital with those who need to follow rehab / recovery plans either upon leaving Hospital or whilst still recovering at Hospital.

This would be a new initiative to not only support people who are recovering but to also help the Hospital reduce pressure on staff with physio and recovery appointments as we can hopefully reduce the times that people need to spend in Hospital and help them get back to some normality. This would also help rebuild their social confidence and reduce anxiety coming out of Hospital, especially as participants would be surrounded by others just coming out of Hospital and recovering from illness, surgery, or medication themselves.

England FA Pilot Scheme

The FA have once again been in contact with us to utilise our large number of participants at the Football Club as well as using our facilities, both the 3G & Sports Pavilion for a new initiative they are considering launching. They have chosen us for their pilot scheme to test the provision which is aimed at 12 – 16-year-olds with around 150 young players set to take part. The scheme is aimed to support player wellbeing, mental health & how they spend their time outside of football & school. We look forward to supporting and contributing to the FA's new programme.

- Alfie Tate, Football Development Officer, Cambourne Town Council
07/09/2023