

## **White Street Sports Ground: The Football Club**

*By James Midgely ("Midge")*

The Football Club is in its most successful period of its history and if we take a moment to look at their history we can see what massive steps they have taken over the last 22 years.

The Club was formed back in 1994 under the chairmanship of Tony Williams, there was one Sunday team and they played their home matches on the playing fields at Greenway using the tiny changing rooms in the Greenway Pavilion. It was a stable and successful ground for the club but eventually it was realised that they needed a new home and in 2010 they played their first match at their new White Street Ground with a first class pitch and changing and recreational facilities to match.

At this point it was realised by the Chairman John Boddy and the manager Richard Perry that contingencies needed to be made to nurture the future generation of North Curry footballers. They set up an under 8's team which was to be run by Shawn Sutton. Thanks to these three the youth section has gone from strength to strength and has been taken even further following the arrival of Paul Thomas who came in as Youth Development officer. He used his previous experience in this roll to form a youth development squad for 5/6 year olds to further supply the under 8's. This strategy worked and now they run the youth development squad, under 7, under 8, under 9, under 10 and under 11 age groups. This is an incredible success story and if you happen to wander up to White Street on a Saturday morning you will be amazed by the activity going on up there. Huge credit must go to Paul Thomas and Ali and Shawn Sutton who have been the driving forces behind this success as well as the army of coaches and helpers who give up their time to help out.

In 2014 Pete Attwood started a Saturday team for the village, giving an opportunity to local youngsters to get into mens football. Again this has been a great success and is still going strong this season. Also the Sunday team continues to be the bedrock of the club under the stewardship of club stalwart Karl Deans.

Since moving to White Street the club has put on 3 very successful celebrity football matches against "The Gethin Jones Allstars" and the ever popular Boxing day "Dan Boddy Cup" is still held each year which raises much needed funds for the club.

With all this expansion the club are starting to need more room and moves are afoot to expand the existing car park and to rent an additional field to provide extra pitches and training areas. This all takes a huge amount of work and all this, as well as the general running of the club is held together by the main man Richard Perry who has been ever present in the history of the club as player, manager, fundraiser, grass cutter, laundry man and now as chairman and a huge vote of thanks must go to him.

We should be very proud of our football team and if you haven't been up to White Street please wander up on a Saturday morning/afternoon or on a Sunday morning to watch them in action !!! If you would like to get involved with the club there are always roles that need filling and at the moment they are actively looking for someone to become child welfare officer, a crucial part of the club.

There is more information on the parish council website – see North Curry Sports!

If you are interested in getting involved in this or any other roles please contact any of the club officers listed below.

Club Chairman: Richard Perry [richardperrygardening@outlook.com](mailto:richardperrygardening@outlook.com)

Youth Development Officer: Paul Thomas [paul.thomas06@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.thomas06@btinternet.com)

Youth Chair: Shawn Sutton: [shawn.sutton@btinternet.com](mailto:shawn.sutton@btinternet.com)

Youth Secretary: Alison Sutton [alisonsutton774@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonsutton774@btinternet.com)