



AXMOUTH UNITED F.C.

Est. 1923

(Affiliated to the Devon County Football Association)

Report for Axmouth Parish Council – April 2015

Axmouth United FC is a small 'grass roots' football club with about 60 members and entirely run by volunteers. The Club has one adult football team playing in the Devon & Exeter Football League. Currently the team plays in the league's Division 3, the highest level it has ever been. It is perhaps worth noting that ten years ago we were five divisions lower, and our present position reflects the fact that the Club has enjoyed quite a successful period since then. This included winning the Golesworthy Cup last May.

We endeavour to be a friendly and welcoming club. On match days at home we are usually well supported, and we are also fortunate to have some loyal supporters who travel to our away games. As some of these games can be over fifty miles away this support is very much appreciated.

The Club's Boshill Cross Ground is within the parish of Axmouth but over a mile from the centre of the village. We recognise that it is likely that the distance deters some from the village from attending our home games, certainly if they want to walk. However there are good parking facilities at the ground and we would love to see more from the village at our home games, and becoming members.

The Section 106 money we applied for last summer is currently awaiting final approval by EDDC. We expect that approval shortly, after which EDDC will send us an offer letter to sign. Funds can then be released to us. Assuming we get the authorisation to proceed fairly soon it is our intention to carry out the relevant work during the summer so that it is completed before the start of pre-season training in mid-July.

Our primary sources of income are from various activities organised by our hard working fund-raising committee (including the barbecue at the Village Show) and from bar sales at our clubhouse on match days. The additional Section 106 funding will be of great benefit to the Club, allowing us to carry out some improvements that we would not otherwise be able to at present. We are very grateful to be receiving it.

The funding will be used to replace the existing goalposts/nets on the main pitch at our Boshill Cross Ground, and also to replace the floodlights on the adjoining training pitch. The new goalposts will be to the latest standards and will significantly enhance what is widely acknowledged as a good local football pitch.

We believe the new lights for the training pitch will enable greater use of our own training facilities during the winter months, thereby saving us the significant cost of hiring facilities elsewhere. The old goalposts from the main pitch will probably be used to replace those currently in use on the training pitch.

There are a number of other improvements we would like to pursue should further funding become available, but that is something for the future.

In the past the Club has run a second team but we believe the amount of usage our ground currently gets is about the maximum sustainable without adversely affecting the quality of the pitch. Our ground is not much higher than the River Axe, and there is a stream running along its southern boundary. Not surprisingly wet weather during the football season can result in games being postponed due to water logging. It is through the excellent work put in by our volunteer groundsmen that the number of games lost to wet weather is kept to a minimum.

We are now nearing the completion of the current playing season, and our annual dinner and presentation night will be held in the village in June. With the work we are hoping to carry out during the summer there will then be very little time before the next season commences in August.

Chris Salter
Secretary