

### **Delabole United FC – Season 2024/25 Report**

Following promotion last year Delabole United has successfully completed its first season in the St Piran League Division 3 East of that league. From a playing perspective the season was regarded as a success and, whilst the team didn't trouble the promotion places, the club more than held its own in the new league.

Given the club was at risk of folding just two years ago it was really pleasing that on match days there was there was a strong core group of players, providing momentum and optimism for a bright future. The players continue to be mostly from Delabole and range in age from 18 to 50s. It is likely that most of these players will be signing on again next year, although it is inevitable that there will be some incomings and outgoings (but without the exorbitant fees of professional football)!

The club continued to fulfil all requirements for affiliation with the FA, which brings both benefits but also a level of rigor in the way that it is run. These requirements include safeguarding, compliance and first aid responsibilities which benefit the club but also offers reassurance to the local community that the club is being run in a responsible manner.

It's with sadness that the club accepted the resignation of Mark Luxton as Manager at the end of the season. The Team Manager is the most demanding of all the roles within the club and Mark has given a significant amount of time and energy over the last seasons. He can walk away from the position with his head held high. A new candidate for manager has stepped forward and it is hoped that this can be ratified at the club's AGM.

Thankfully Mark is not standing down from all activities and will continue to be an active member of the committee including managing the club's social media and some of the fundraising activities.

The End of Season Awards night will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> May at the Poldark Inn, and anyone from the local community is welcome. Tickets are available through Adrian Pooley at the Poldark in what is planned to be a real celebration of the club and its players over the last year.

Looking forward to the next year it is hoped that the team club can continue its strong showing on the pitch and the club more generally continue to be a cornerstone of the local community. As well as the taking part in Delabole Carnival the club will always seek to be a valued part of everything that happens in Delabole, including the annual Colin Burrell / Les Cory Charity Match.

One particular ambition is to seek to improve the club's facilities by extending and refurbishing the clubhouse to provide separate showers for the home and away teams as well as for referees. This will require a significant amount of external funding, principally from Cornwall FA, but other funders will be sought to bring a viable plan together.

The club remains in a stable financial position, thanks to fundraising events including a New Year's Day Sea Dip, the now regular monthly bingo and what we hope to be an annual race evening. As always new sponsors or people looking to work with the club are always welcome, and playing at this level of the football pyramid, Delabole United remains reliant on the external funding partners and events to remain in a healthy financial position.

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