

Delabole and Tintagel United FC – Season 2022/23 Report

At the end of the 2021/22 season football in Delabole was in the balance after consecutive seasons affected by COVID and a lack of consistently committed players.

This predicament wasn't one faced just by Delabole United, and a number of other clubs were experiencing the same challenges. Our neighbours in Tintagel were one of those other clubs and after successful discussions we agreed to pool our resources and form the brand-new club of Delabole and Tintagel United with players from both clubs combining.

From a playing perspective the 2022/23 season has had its challenges but in general been a more successful one, with players more readily available, creating a reasonably strong nucleus for the team. With one game remaining a mid-table finish is guaranteed.

The more healthy position for the club is aided by a number of younger players registering, who have not only brought enthusiasm and energy to the club, but have also provided a rosy outlook for the future. It is hoped that more young players can be attracted to the club as they leave under-16 leagues and become available to play open age football on their 16th birthday. The club has robust safeguarding measures with a responsible officer appointed for all players under the age of 18.

The playing field and clubhouse have been maintained in good order, but the on-going issue of anti-social behaviour has seen unnecessary costs and effort to replace vandalised items, including most recently a broken window.

The club remains in a stable financial position and thanks to sponsors, who have generously helped fund the on-going costs of the club, there is no immediate threat to the financial stability.

The 2023/24 season sees another new start for the club as it says goodbye to the Duchy League and for the first time enters the St Piran League structure. It marks the end of a long and successful period as a member of the Duchy League, which is being closed down. The club remains grateful for the service of the Duchy League committee members who have made football in Delabole possible over many successful seasons.

This is part of Cornwall FA's drive to simplify the league structure into a single pyramid system, and indeed part of a nationwide push by the Football Association to do the same across the country. The theory is that if we become successful enough we could be playing Plymouth Argyle or even Manchester United in a few years' time – but we're not holding our breath!

The end of season awards dinner was successfully held in advance of the final game, as this last game was postponed at short notice, with the occasion well attended. The club's AGM was also held in advance of the last game because of this last-minute cancellation. At the AGM, the club's officers were largely re-elected, but a new manager, Mark Luxton, was appointed for the 23/24 season appointed.

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