



FEBRUARY 2017

Hello All

As we see the club developing I felt it was time to formally let you know of an aspect of hard work which is being done behind the scenes to secure an exciting long term future for OUR club. Several years ago talks began regarding a long term lease of land at Southowram Cricket Club due to it being extremely difficult to find areas within the village to meet our needs. This resulted in a 30 year legally binding lease being established between the Cricket Club and Beacon Rangers for an area to the left of the Cricket Pitch and field at the rear. Over Christmas Rob Stead and Jonny Heap spent some time up there assessing the two fields and measuring them.

The great news is that the two areas will give us a pitch which can be used for all age groups up to U10's and a full size pitch for U11's and over. We still aim to retain use of Withinfields School pitch for our younger age groups to offer flexibility for both training and matches as our club develops. This is great news!

Rob, Jonny and I met with representatives of the Cricket Club committee to discuss progress with the two fields. This meeting was very positive and a great understanding of what was planned was gained. Rob also spoke from his role with Southowram Scouts about greater involvement for them to use the facilities at the Cricket Club and the fields we have the lease on (we currently have 13 players who are also involved in either Beavers, Cubs or Scouts). A great mutual understanding of what we want for the village and especially the young people of the village was gained.

This is a major project for us and we will need to look at funding through grants or sponsorship. The first step will be that the West Riding FA will be coming along to inspect the field in March. Once the FA have assessed the land they will give us advice on what work will be required, how much money we will need and the different options for grants. Following the FA's visit we will then have a clear idea of the next steps for the project. When we start work on our fields we will need assistance from anyone that may have experience in this area and access to equipment. If you know anyone who could assist please get in touch.

Rob has proposed that we have a "clean-up day" with all three interested parties being- the Cricket Club, Scouts and us. To this end we would like you to join us at the Cricket Club on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February from 13:00 to 17:00 to help in doing a multitude of jobs such as litter collecting, weeding, tidying fencing, rubble and a major task is to cut down and remove a section of brambles and bushes.

We will have the Clubhouse open to provide refreshments and toilet facilities so please make a real effort to come as the old saying "many hands make light work" really does ring true. If you can bring any gloves, shovels, trowels, cutters etc.... with you it would help.

As mentioned this is a huge undertaking but one which will secure the future of the club and allow it to develop into something special.

Forging links with the Scout Group and Cricket Club will make this a real hub for the community.

Thank you

*Nigel Freeman*

Nigel Freeman

U10 Coach, and Chairman, Beacon Rangers