

## Senior Spireites F.C. A.G.M. Secretary's Report for 2024

2024 was a year of stability in some ways as the playing membership increased from 112 in January to 114 by the end of the year but those numbers mask quite a lot of new members, an increase in social members from 21 to 29, and the departure from the club of some others. Sadly we had to say goodbye to Michael Wilson early in the year and we had a good turnout of members to his funeral. At the end of the year we also managed a fair turnout to support Pete Jacques at the funeral of his wife, Sue. We are a football family of friends and try to support each other in times of need.

Unfortunately, we also saw a few incidences of disagreement and upset to players. Let's try to remember that we are no longer children and are all responsible for the wellbeing of our members, so let's stick to the playing rules, respect the referees and each other, and remember our 3Fs motto: Fun, Fitness and, above all, Friendship.

We saw a really positive start to the year by our league team, managed by Steve Housley, who, as you will have seen from the agenda, is stepping down from the committee this year. We should all thank him for his efforts and wish the new management team of Terry Ashley and Rob Church the best of luck for the next season, starting in September this year. The over 70s team continued with a successful series of friendly games and there were some other friendlies for the benefit of heart and cancer charities, and even just for fun. There was also the, now traditional, Almelo City cup under the care and guidance of Pete Jacques and we had 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary games at Rotherham in which we were able to field most of our players from the original contest ten years ago. Unfortunately, Rotherham only had one of their original squad available and, even more unfortunately, we lost this time.

We had a very large increase in hire charges for the Hasland pitch but the numbers playing there have held up well so it has not caused a financial problem. We agreed a long term pricing strategy at The Akademy but have seen a general decline in the condition of all the pitches, which is why the committee took the decision towards the end of the year to consider the possibility of moving to an alternate venue. The result of these considerations is item 8 on today's agenda.

Finally, I would like to thank the other committee members for all their hard work to make this club a success, and also all of you, for the support I have received in spite of frequent forgetfulness and errors of judgement, both off the pitch as well as on it.