



Walton Park Indoor Football Centre Annual Newsletter 2021

10 Year Anniversary

This week marks a special date for us here at WPIFC. It is 10 years since we became a company ready to take over from TMBC. With a board of Trustees and dedicated staff, we have grown into the business we are today. Just a quick note to say that we could not have done this without our fantastic customers- new & old! We just wish that we could be open for you to play. In July will be the 10th anniversary of us achieving charitable status and we plan to mark the occasion so watch this space.

Chairman's Note

We hope everyone is keeping well during these difficult times. We thought it may be good to give you an update on WPIFC. In summary, the last year has been a very challenging one as we imagine it has been for many of you. We remain proud of having protected the facility for community use, where it had been at risk of demolition by the Council. We have a full team of staff in place and reserves in our accounts, we continue to invest in the centre with upgraded fire doors to improve access and egress from the pitches for maintenance and emergencies. All of us are raring to get going again as soon as we're allowed and will have the centre open and waiting for you when we can.

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Upgrades

Whilst we have been closed we have been busy! We have new lighting in place, replacing the 'street light' effect over the pitches. The pitches have been re-painted. Gone is the old yellow paint on the walls. Hurray! On pitch 1, we have as you know replaced the old single fire exit door with a new flush double fire exit, meaning we can increase the frequency and quality of our pitch maintenance. Pitch 3 is to be done at some point, but we will have to wait until we can get back open.



Jimmy Nicholson

As many of you know, Jim retired late last year after (as legend has it) 40 years at Walton Park. Jim no doubt has seen many changes here and helped in the saving of the centre from demolition and forming as a charity. He has always spoken of "the lads" with great affection and was sad that he has not had a chance to say thanks in person. The donations that you all gave towards Jim's retirement is nothing short of amazing and we thank you so much for all your kind donations. It really shows how much of a community spirit is at the centre and is much more than just a place for people to come and play.



When we gave Jim his retirement presents, he was so pleased. He has asked us to relay his thanks and gratitude to you all. We do plan to re-name a pitch here at the centre after Jim when we can open back up. It would be great if when we can sort a date people could pop down and see him in person. We will perhaps look at a weekend to avoid work issues.

Diversity Objectives at WPIFC

During our last AGM (which all company members are invited and welcome to join) we spoke of expanding our customer base and what we can do to become more diverse. We here at WPIFC recognise that we wish to open the centre more to ladies, mixed teams, children's teams, ethnic groups and encourage you to come and play. Football is for everyone and everyone is welcome here at the centre. We are going to run some promotions to encourage more diversity here so please keep an eye out when we are opening and what we will be doing.

Any teams interested please get in touch through the contact details below.

Covid-19 & Re-opening of WPIFC

Following the government guidance and projected roadmap for the re-opening of indoor facilities.

- Stage 2 will begin no earlier than 12th April when we can welcome back junior clubs to Walton Park.
- Stage 3 will start from 17th May at the earliest at which organized adult indoor group sports and exercise classes. This is when we can then open for all teams playing at the centre.
At the end of April, we will get in touch with all bookings to make sure you are all ready to play. Until stage 4 we will adhere to all Covid related guidance and request that all teams do the same.
- Stage 4, no earlier than 21st June will remove all legal limits on social contact.

Contact Details

Walton Park Indoor Football Centre
Raglan Road
Sale
M33 4AG

Email : manager.wpifc@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.wpifc.org.uk>

Phone: 07901 386455 / 0161 962 0159

Booking information

Off peak, casual and Block Bookings, £25/hr

Standard casual booking, £37/hr

Standard Block Booking, £35/hr (a block booking can be made for a minimum of 3 months, T's & C's apply)

Opening hours:

4:00 PM – 10:00 PM Monday to Friday

9:00 AM – 13:00 PM Saturday & Sunday

