Impact of Covid-19 on Roade FC – The Club and its Members

As everyone is aware, the new coronavirus, Covid-19, is having an unprecedented impact on all our lives. The disruption it has brought to the 2019-2020 football season comes on top of the postponement of fixtures caused by the record-breaking wet weather that was endured between October and February. With this season’s football suspended, and for most leagues and competitions already terminated, we are living in uncertain times with no obvious date for the re-starting of football training and matches. Life for many of us has become a challenge with job losses, falling incomes and worries about the health of our families and friends.

It is difficult to predict the overall impact of the coronavirus on the football club. As a not-for-profit organisation, we hold minimal cash reserves. Income is re-invested in the club’s facilities which in the last 12 months has included the new changing pavilion and the refurbishment of the clubhouse lounge.

Some organisations have stepped in to help with the current coronavirus crisis: Heineken will eventually credit the club for the loss of the draught beer stock, while Sky Sports and BT Sport have suspended payments for their services. However, other financial commitments such as insurance, electricity, equipment hire, telephone and broadband services will have to be paid each month. On the income side, apart from the obvious loss of bar income in the coming months, another major income loss will come from the cancellation of our highly popular Youth Football Tournament in June.

With regard to the members that support the club through the payment of playing membership for 2019-2020, a large number of you have paid the subs due for the whole season, for which we are very grateful. With the season suspended around 3 months before the typical end date of June, the club will be happy to add this time as a credit to your membership when football recommences. For those who have not yet paid for the whole season, and are financially able to do so, it would be really appreciated if you could make the final payment as soon as possible to help the club overcome the inevitable cashflow difficulties it will encounter.

On a more upbeat note, we are hopeful that grant funding will allow us to invest a significant sum in the next 12 months on pitch renovation work to improve the drainage and surface quality of all our grass pitches. This will be followed up by a regular pitch maintenance programme in subsequent years to raise the standard of the club's grass pitches. If we can get the pitch renovation work started while there is a halt to all football, we can hopefully look forward to a lot more football fixtures being played whatever the weather throws at us next season. The club is strong and well supported. Hopefully, we will all be back playing or watching football or simply enjoying the clubhouse facilities soon.

If anyone has any questions, advice or concerns, please feel free to contact me by sending an email to roadefc@me.com.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Pete Lowe

Roade FC Treasurer & Vice-Chairman