



## **WELCOME TO THE FIRST IN OUR NEW SERIES OF SIFIL AFC NEWSLETTERS, 'CHAT FROM THE CHAIR'**

We aim to publish at least 3 updates throughout the season titled:

- Kick Off – to be published in September, in readiness for the start of the season
- Half-time – to be published around Christmas/New Year
- Full – time – to be published around April/May

Let's hope there's no need for extra time and penalties.

With all the constant moving parts across the club, we're not going to cover everything, but we hope these updates will provide a summary of important club matters and help improve our overall communication with coaches, players, family members and anyone who has association with the club.

Please follow our Facebook & Twitter pages, as well as our website for details of important club information and updates, as we move along.

Please remember there is an army of coaches and committee members available to help. If you don't know something, please ask!

# **SIFIL AFC**

## **Season 25/25: KICK OFF**

### **REGISTRATIONS**

We've had a very successful pre-season to date, having managed to on-board over 270 players (both existing and new) since the window opened in June. We expect this number to reach 300 by the time the Mini & Junior season starts in early September.

This is a remarkable number of players within the club, particularly against the backdrop of the changes we've seen in the last 12 months, and with the introduction of new policies and ways of working.

A big welcome / croeso, to all players and thanks to all coaches, helpers and family members for working with us to imbed the new registration and subs process through TeamFeePay.

We hope you remain with us for the long-term, as we go from strength to strength and wish all our players, teams, coaches and supporters all the very best for the season.

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### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The local Gwent, Newport & District / Monmouthshire Leagues are keeping a close eye on matchday standards given recent instances of poor spectator and pitch-side behaviour, including racist abuse and foul language directed to players, coaches and officials.

The leagues are carrying out more frequent spot-checks at matches, to assess a club's overall behaviour and conduct. Clubs have advised that financial penalties will be issued where instances of unacceptable behaviour occurs, where league and safe-guarding rules aren't followed and/or where clubs are found to breach the expected standards of conduct.

As a club we are co-operating with the league authorities to maintain standards, especially in the Juniors and Mini section, where there is additional responsibility to set a good example. We would ask that everyone in the club helped to uphold this.

We have introduced a code of conduct which we expect all players, volunteers and parents to adhere to. These codes are accepted by parents and players as part of the registration process within TeamPayFee and form part of someone's membership of the club. As part of our overall safeguarding obligations and as good practice, we will look to use disciplinary procedures in instances where there is sufficient need to do so, but sincerely hope that we never have to take action.

## SUBS / MEMBER FEES: REFUND POLICY

The club committee has agreed that there can be a small window of opportunity for subs to be refunded in instances where a player leaves within 1 month of joining and/or if a team folds, during the “playing season”.

Example: For teams/players starting and registered on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, the cut off date for a departing players refund would be Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.  
For teams/players who registers on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, then the cut off date would be Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.

The policy and timeframes are to be the same for any teams that fold entirely during the season, however, a full refund will be issued if a team fails to enter in the league to begin with and disbands (e.g. Players sign up during summer, but don't recruit enough players to continue).

All amounts refunded to the player/parent are minus the admin fee for TeamFeePay and whatever fee has already been paid to FAW for registration. Additionally, we reserve the right to deduct money for any additional expenses incurred such as playing kit (where this hasn't be returned and where the club has met the expense).

Please continue to review our website FAQ's for updates on common club-related matters.

Our website link is as follows:

<https://sifilafc.wales/about/faqs>

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## SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Having been successful in receiving some FAW funding, together with financial assistance from site management, we've been able to undertake several wider site improvements. These include the installation of security fencing, along with an entrance and refreshments cabin, around the senior pitch.

These measures help improve the overall look and feel of the site, and raise the standard of facilities, as well as providing extra security measures to help matchday crowds control and prevent instances of ASB and trespassing.

We have also installed a fixed set of metal 7ft x 16ft goals (suitable for U12's and U13's) on the junior pitch, which will shortly be followed by install of fencing and gating around the boundary of the field.

Once again, not only do these measures improve the overall facilities and help reduce instances of nuisance, they also keep us compliant with the safeguarding regulations and ensure the safest possible experience for our young players and our coaching teams.



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## SENIOR TEAM LEADERSHIP

Nathan Speller & Anthony Connors have taken the reigns of the Senior 1<sup>st</sup> and reserves team, respectively. They've elected to install club-stalwart Matthew 'Cabbage' Palmer and Neil 'Onja' Simms as their assistants. Harrison Soper continues in his role as 1<sup>st</sup> team captain, with Jude Clarke fulfilling that role for the Reserves.

Both management teams have spent the summer working hard on recruiting new players and integrating them into the set-up. Having retained approx.. 80% of players from last season, we've added extra skills and experience to complement the solid foundations already held within the squad.

The players have been put to the test against some strong opposition in pre-season friendlies and are already underway with their competitive fixtures, with a busy calendar ahead for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season. The leadership team continue to work hard in the background, to ensure overall operations are running as effectively as possible.

We wish the management and players all the very best for the season ahead.

# SIF-FEST

## Family Fun Day & Football Festival

Our annual family fun day, SifFest was another roaring success, as we worked closely with our on-site partners GLD School of Dance, and local community members and expanded the football offering, to make the most of the day.

The weather was certainly on our side, as we welcomed 13 opposing teams from 7 different clubs across 5 age ranges in the mini's section.

We'd like to think everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and the day brought in nearly **£1,800** of vital funds; all of which, go directly to back to the club, site and its users.

Re-investing where it is most needed.

Again, a big heart-felt thanks goes to all our players and coaches for their input, along with Gemma and her GLD volunteers who gave their time and effort into making it another fantastic community occasion.

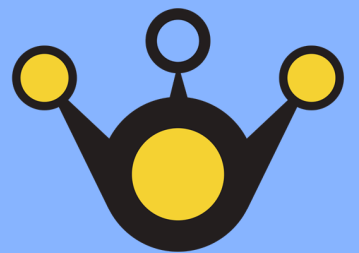
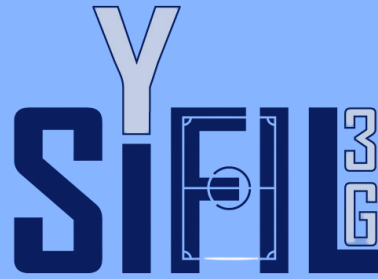
We'll make sure SifFest 2026 is bigger and better!



## SPONSORS

We remain indebted to our host of local community and corporate sponsors who provide us with essential financial support, helping to sustain and improve the club. Every penny that comes into this club, whether it be from subs/fees, or sponsors, is used to directly benefit all our players and those associated with the club.

Our appreciation is ever-present



Webber Design

