

Shipdham United Football Club – Chair’s Report (March 2026)

Shipdham United Football Club

Chair’s Report - March 2026

Adam Binns, Chair

1. Leadership & Club Governance

In March 2026, I assumed the role of Chair of Shipdham United Football Club. This report outlines our current position, the leadership structure now in place, and how we are shaping delivery to support our players and strengthen our relationship with the local community- particularly the Parish Council.

A new committee structure has been formalised to ensure clear leadership, accountability, and operational delivery:

Kerry Clark - Secretary

Leads club administration, minute-taking, correspondence, communications, and documentation.

Nicole Chilvers - Treasurer

Manages club finances, budgeting, reporting, and coordinates funding opportunities for the coming season.

Lauren Hunt - Welfare Officer

Oversees player welfare, safeguarding culture, and ensures safeguarding practice is embedded in day-to-day activity.

All committee members are local volunteers with direct links to the club through their children, ensuring decisions reflect community priorities.

In addition to my responsibilities as Chair, I also:

- Coach the U9 team, where my son plays.
- Support the wider coaching team to ensure consistency in training and match preparation across age groups.

This ensures leadership is both strategic and operational.

2. Club Overview & Participation

Shipdham United FC currently operates **five teams**, from **U9 to U17**, with **77 registered players**

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We are actively recruiting ahead of the new season through our online presence. Player growth

remains a strategic priority, strengthening sustainability and broadening the development pathway for young footballers in the village.

Each team has at least **two coaches**, providing:

- Resilience for training and match coverage
 - Additional support for player development
 - Improved consistency for parents and safeguarding oversight
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3. Safeguarding, Compliance & Safe Delivery

Player welfare and safeguarding compliance remain central to club governance.

Our safeguarding arrangements meet Football Association requirements, including:

- DBS checks for eligible roles
- Safeguarding training for appropriate volunteers
- First aid provision where required
- Clear safeguarding responsibilities through the Welfare Officer

We are committed to maintaining high standards as we grow and expand opportunities for both boys and girls.

4. Community Development: Girls Football at U16 Level

We are currently establishing a **new U16 girls team** for next season.

This represents a significant step forward, demonstrating:

- Commitment to inclusion and equal opportunity
- Progression pathways beyond younger age groups
- Long-term club development through attracting and retaining local players

This initiative ensures the club continues to reflect the needs and aspirations of the Shipdham community.

5. Training Locations & Parish Council Partnership

Teams currently train and play between **Bullock Park** and **Ashill**.

A key leadership focus is strengthening coordination with the Parish Council to:

- Improve communication around pitch availability and scheduling
- Align club activity with community priorities
- Support improvements that enhance the experience for players, families, and visitors

We view this as a partnership opportunity centred on shared outcomes: youth development, community cohesion, and positive use of village resources.

6. Non-Profit Model & Reinvestment

Shipdham United FC operates as a **non-profit organisation**. All funds are reinvested into:

- Team equipment and training resources
- Coaching and safeguarding-related costs
- Player participation support
- Improvements that directly benefit young people

Our Treasurer is leading a programme of funding opportunities for the new season, prioritising responsible investment in equipment and delivery capacity.

7. Summer Delivery: Tournaments & Player Development

Although the league season is ending, development continues through the summer. Across the summer months, all teams will participate in tournaments across the county, providing:

- Exposure to varied playing styles
- Increased confidence and match experience
- Strengthened team identity and coaching resilience

This maintains momentum and supports ongoing player development.

8. Strategic Opportunity: Hosting Tournaments Next Year

Looking ahead, Shipdham United FC aims to be in a position to **host tournaments next year**. If supported appropriately, this could deliver:

- Financial opportunities for reinvestment
- Increased visibility of Shipdham youth football
- Positive community impact through visitor engagement
- Wider benefits for local families, volunteers, and stakeholders

To progress this responsibly, we will work with the Parish Council to understand governance requirements (permissions, site management, risk assessment, event oversight). A structured proposal will follow once the framework is clear.

9. Leadership Focus - Next Phase

Our immediate priorities include:

- Strengthening governance and operational consistency

- Growing participation to support five-team sustainability
 - Launching U16 girls football (planning, recruitment, safeguarding readiness)
 - Securing funding for equipment and improved training delivery
 - Enhancing coordination with the Parish Council
 - Developing a tournament-hosting proposal aligned with parish expectations
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Conclusion

Since taking on the Chair role in March 2026, we have established clear leadership, strengthened delivery structures, and prioritised safe, compliant, community-driven football for young people in Shipdham and the surrounding area.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss with the Parish Council how we can continue to develop a productive partnership, including support around facilities coordination and-subject to governance requirements-the potential for Shipdham FC to host tournaments next year.

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