

Norfolk Christian Football League

FINAL 2017



CONNECTING CHURCH TO COMMUNITY THROUGH FOOTBALL



Chairman's report - Mike Culwick

I was browsing in Sainsbury's recently when a man I didn't recognise said "Hello Mick, how are you?" "Very well" I answered, "But sorry, I don't recognise you". "I'm Leslie Cooper, and was in the Boys Brigade, you remember now?"

Of course I did. I hadn't seen Leslie for over 40 years, and he told me how being in the Boys Brigade had provided him with a firm foundation for his life. In his work experiences people he met would remark on his integrity, and his willingness to help others; he was noticed to be somehow different to other people. He would tell them he is the person he is today because of the time he spent in the Boys Brigade, and the influence the officers had on his young life at the time. There are countless 'Leslies' about, whose lives have been greatly influenced by belonging to a Christian organisation in their youth, which has provided a solid foundation on which to build their lives.

We have the cream of the Christian Football league competing in their prospective age group finals during May, and we applaud the teams and their coaches for getting to the finals. Especially Lowestoft, who in their first season with us have a 100% record as u12 league winners and could complete a clean sweep by the end of May. This programme contains details of all our league winners and cup finalists. However you all fared this season, you have all contributed to make this yet another successful football adventure in the Christian league.

On reflection of the past season and many other seasons, I hope and pray that Leslie's experience could be repeated many times by the girls and boys who have played football in the Christian League. This can only really happen if those who are in a position of influence i.e managers and coaches share the ideology of the Christian League; the ethos of integrity, fair play,

showing humility in winning and grace in defeat.

In the finals, as in our league games, there are many spectators who watch us closely. *Since we are surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders, and the temptations that entangle us and run the race with endurance [play the game] set before us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.* Hebrews 12 v 1-2. Be a good example to others in the game!

The shields and cups on display are now a bit old and battered, with many teams engraved on the plates. Even so, it's a great feeling to have come through as winners and receive them and the medals. But is there more? Is there something even better, which you do not have to give back at the end of the next season? *"Do not store up treasures on earth, where they will age and decay, get lost or stolen, but rather store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where there is no decay, no thief and will be yours forever to enjoy."* Matthew 6.

As a manager of successful youth and adult teams I was really pleased for my lads when they lifted the cup or shield, but in my heart I wasn't satisfied, the only thing I desired was that one of them one day, would accept Jesus as their friend and saviour and have that treasure in heaven which would bring them the peace, inner contentment that only God's love for us can give us, a life with purpose and meaning and fulfilment. Position, power and money can never fill that void in your life, only God can do that.

I am so grateful to have a committee of committed Christians to work with. We may differ in several ways, and we sometimes disagree, but we are all of one mind in our quest to reach others with the gospel of our Lord.

Enjoy the remaining last few epic games in May, and may the Lord bless you and give you peace in all situations.

Adult League report

The mission of the Norfolk Christian Football League is 'Connecting Church to Community through Football'.

So how have we been doing? In many ways this is difficult to assess, but there is one thing I am sure of: the adult League puts our churches in contact with many young (and not so young) men, and their families whom otherwise we would not know. And not only are we in touch, but the experience of 11-a-side football allows us to share our lives, our personalities and emotions, in a special way.

From UEA and NCBC playing a title decider at the end of April, to Vineyard making a final effort to win a game on the same day, from top to bottom all our teams are engaged in a team effort which challenges us. We want that challenge to be in the context of healthy, friendly competition, where each week two teams come together with the aim of enjoying a game of football.

This year, I would suggest, that has happened more than ever before. Of course there have been a few issues, that is football, but the league feels to me to have been the friendliest and most cohesive that I have known.

To back this up, this is an unsolicited email from referee Lee Potter about the Soul/Briston Shield semi-final.

"Just to say what a great advert for the Christian League last week's semi-final match was between Soul Church and Briston. Tough but fair tackling, competitive, extra time and penalties and both teams enjoying the match, if not the result. Played in the right spirit and I thoroughly enjoyed refereeing the game."

It has also been a very competitive year: apart from NCBC and UEA at the top and Vineyard at the bottom, all the other teams have been within five points of each other.

The only down-side to this season has been that we had eight teams, a drop of three from the previous year: we are not immune to the challenges the 11-a-side game faces nationally. Although this might have aided the friendliness of the league, we would like to say to any churches who might be considering an adult football team: Come and join us - there really is nothing else like it.

Which brings us to today.

The League extends a warm welcome to all players, officials, families and friends of all the teams involved in our Finals, as well as those indispensable people, the match officials.

We also welcome Geoff Lawton, who is about to retire from the leadership of Norwich Vineyard, to present the trophies. As a player for Holy Trinity in the 1970s, I know from first-hand experience that Geoff is acquainted with the griefs and joys of football.

In the Wroxham Road Shield final we are pleased to welcome Stalham and Soul, two teams who have been a credit to the league and their churches over many years. In the Bishop's Cup, NCBC and UEA bring the season to a fitting climax, following UEAs dramatic late cup win last year and their title rivalry this season.

May we all enjoy the day, and in it find something of what Jesus meant when he said: "I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness."

Jim Green - Vice Chairman

Men's League Table

Correct at time of print

POS	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Norwich Central Baptist	17	16	1	2	93	43
2 UEA Rovers	16	13	1	2	55	40
3 Soul Church	15	8	0	7	10	24
4 Heigham Park Rangers	16	6	1	9	-21	19
5 Briston Reserves	17	7	3	7	4	24
6 King's Athletic	16	6	2	8	-22	20
7 Stalham Baptist	16	6	1	9	-18	19
8 Norwich Vineyard	17	0	1	16	-101	1



Youth League report

When the youth league first kicked off in 1995 there were four teams, one being Mount Zion church u12s. We welcome back Mount Zion, now better known as Soul church, with three teams in the youth league joining their adult team. Also welcome back a team from Cringleford in the u10 league.

Two new teams have joined us for the first time, Lowestoft Community church and SYEP u16s supported by churches in Sprowston.

The u10s have again had a very good season, outdoor and indoor, all games played in a spirit which fully embraces the ethos of our league, thank you to all the lads, managers and parents for your enthusiasm and encouragement for all involved. A special mention for Silver Road, who against the odds, made it through to the u10 cup final, and will be playing a strong Brooke side.

The u12 league was dominated by a very strong Lowestoft team who won the league with a 100% record. Old Catton Soul, another new team with a very good record were runners up. We will expect a close game in the cup final with Lowestoft v Lighthouse.

Lighthouse were the u14 league winners losing just one game with just 3 points separating the next 3 teams. The cup final will be Lighthouse v Worstead Wolves; this will be a close encounter.

With just five teams in the u16 League, the lowest number we have had for several years we wondered if this would be successful, Thanks to Paul Nice, the u16 coordinator and all managers it was an enjoyable season with the

lads getting to know each other as the season progressed, with games played in friendly atmosphere, unusual for 15 year olds, well done to all. Our new team from Sprowston, who didn't play league games, are through to the cup final playing Brooke, who won the u16 league.

Overall we have had a very good season, with over 300 lads playing in the Christian league. There have been a few, very few, unpleasant situations to deal with, but, that is football, being played and watched and managed by imperfect human beings. We have Jesus as our example... "Even though he was God, he humbled himself and became man and lived among us...". Humility, grace and forgiveness takes care of all things.

We have a wonderful football league, with games being played in a great spirit so I will sign off by congratulating everyone connected with the league and I am sure you will agree that Alan Barnes deserves a special mention for all his hard work in making it all happen so successfully.

Mike Culwick - Chairman

Bishop Maurice Wood Cup Final
FDC – Bowthorpe – Saturday 13th May
1.00pm Kick-off

Norwich Central Baptist Church

Adam Hubbard
Darren Hardy-Shepherd
Kellen Playford
Mark Waters
Matthew Johns
Simon Jervis
Ian Garrod (Captain)
Peter Morgan
Toby Meek
Kevin Finch
Nat Bash
Adam Jervis
Chris Morgan
Ben Jervis
Matthew Seager (Manager)
Ed Ward
Richard Brett
Daniel Jervis

UEA Rovers

Edward Abery
Jack Anderton
Cameron Belton (manager)
David Bennett
Tom Buttery
Tommy Dominguez
Jordan Orton
Tom Pumfrey
Gregory Rix
Oliver Rodriguez
Joshua Short
George Stringer
Alex Goodall
Ben Hastings
Dom Johnson
Beau Spree
Ross McLachlan
Jack Stevens

Officials

Ref	Lee Potter
AR1	Chris Brown
AR2	Paul Gibson
4th Official	Chris Allen

Wroxham Road Shield final
FDC - Bowthorpe - Saturday 13th May
10am Kick-off

Soul Church

Aaron Anderton
Kyle Appleton
Stephen Brown
Daniel Cullingford
Owen Cullingford (Manager)
Lee Daniels
Joshua Hall
Sam Hennigan
Adam Knights
Philip Lee
Tim Lee
Chay Liddiment
Jonathan Mann
Serge Melnikovs
Joao Neves (Captain)
Jonotas Neves
Stewart Pailthorpe
Byron Rawlings

Jim Garver (Club Secretary)
Jeanette Cullingford (Kit Lady)

Stalham Baptist

Alex Bale
Andy Bennett
Christopher Bolden
Duncan Borrett
Matthew Buxton
Toby Connell
Joshua Hollebon
Olly Jenkins
Ben King
Christopher Love
Luke Marsh
Morgan Lee
Adam Millington
Phil Reynolds
Dale Roberts
David St John
Neil Wakefield
Dean Walker
James White
John-James Woodrow

Manager: Phil Reynolds

Officials

Ref	Mark Ayliffe
AR 1	Glen Hambling
AR 2	Egidijus Amsiejus
4th Official	Chris Allen

Under 16s Final
Brooke Village Hall – Saturday 6th May
1.15pm Kick-off

Brooke Adventurers

Alfie Daniels
Ben Dixon
Alfie Gadd
Tom Greenacre
Fraizer Hopkins
Reuben Lane
James Lightfoot
Ned Mead
Oscar Muntendam
Lloyd Perfitt
Oliver Sykes

Manager: Rob Dixon

Sprowston YEP Bears

Robbie Lindsay
Noah Collins
Charlie Diallo
Kieren Wickham
Kobe Abodunde
Bradley Herring
Ollie Jackson
Oakley Rivers
Oscar Nunn
Harvey McLaughlin
Henry Hamilton
Jamal Ahmed

Manager: Andy Bunter

Under 14s Final
Brooke Village Hall – Saturday 6th May
12.00pm Kick-off

Lighthouse

Leon Coleman
Riley Dyball
Thomas Eltringham
Ryan Marr
Joel Philpott
Harry Revell
Luke Rumsby
Max Sexton
Charlene Skull
Alex Smith
Eli Taylor
Justin Taylor

Manager: Darren Smith

Worstead Wolves

Adam Whiting
Maxim Lawes
Robbie Watts (C)
Kyle Osbourne
Thomas Horne
Ethan Slater
Benjamin Eagling
Kaveh Tadayon
Aaron Dicken
Matthew Mynhardt
Aaron Slater

Manager/Coach Kevin Watts

Under 12s Final
Brooke Village Hall – Saturday 6th May
10.45am Kick-off

Lighthouse

Josh Revell (GK)
Cai Law
Albie Barrell
Sean Kirpalani
Ziggy Mansfield
Jude Philpott (c)
Isaac Palmer
Terry Stone
Harry Burghall

Manager: Tristan Philpott
Assistant: Chris Palmer

Lowestoft United

Ben Aust
Rory Coowson
Joshua Davis
Joshua Heaton
Daniel Hunt
Jacob Landles
Malachi Lawson
Joel Parish
Luke Staniforth
Nathan Warnes

Manager: Ben Parish

Under 10s Final
Brooke Village Hall – Saturday 6th May
9.30am Kick-off

Silver Road

Kornel Chmielenski
Swaley Gray
Daanyal Masood
Justin Iliescu
Josh Bolden
Josh Humphries
Luca Iliescu
Monty Parker
Alfie Potter
Elliott White
David Cojoc
Andrei Iamandi
Otis Tabern

Manager: Alan Barnes

Brooke Adventurers

Cameron Warman
Byron Hughes
Joe Allcock
Thomas Robson
Adam Robson
Max Lowe
Harry Lowe
William Panter
Monty Patel
Shay Given

Manager: Gordon Given

League Tables

U16

POS	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Brooke Adventurers	12	7	4	1	23	25
2 Surrey Chapel	12	6	4	2	12	22
3 Heigham Park Rangers Hawks	12	5	2	5	-5	17
4 Heigham Park Rangers Eagles	12	2	6	4	-8	12
5 Lighthouse	12	1	2	9	-22	5

U14

POS	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Lighthouse	14	13	0	1	51	39
2 Brooke Adventurers	14	9	1	4	32	28
3 Worstead Wolves Youth	14	9	1	4	19	28
4 St John's	14	8	1	5	7	25
5 Stoke United Youth	14	5	2	7	1	17
6 Heigham Park Rangers	14	5	2	7	-19	17
7 Old Catton Juniors Soul	14	2	2	10	-36	8
8 Mattishall Youth	14	0	1	13	-55	1

U12

POS	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
1 Lowestoft United	18	18	0	0	98	54
2 Old Catton Juniors Soul	18	14	2	2	59	44
3 Brooke Adventurers	17	11	2	4	33	35
4 Lighthouse	18	11	1	6	31	34
5 Thorpe Rovers Youth	18	10	1	7	34	31
6 Stoke United Youth	18	8	2	8	-2	26
7 Worstead Wolves Youth	18	6	2	10	12	20
8 Surlingham Tornadoes	18	2	1	15	-65	7
9 Silver Road FC U12	18	2	1	15	-105	7
10 Old Catton Juniors Tigers	18	2	0	16	-95	6

Players turn out to honour Norfolk football pioneer Tim

A special memorial football match in honour of Norwich young people's champion Tim Stapleford took place on October 15 to raise funds for a sports project which he set up.

Tim was the inspiration behind the launch of the youth divisions of the Norfolk Christian Football League and, as a tribute, the league and its teams came together in a special match at the FDC 'Field of Dreams', at Bowthorpe.

Players young and old from at least eight different churches and teams took part including Holy Trinity, Heigham Park Rangers, Meadow Way, Soul Church, St John's, UEA Christian Union, Surrey Chapel and Heartsease Methodist.

A crowd of around 70 people attended and helped to raise £570 towards the Jenny Lind Park Young People's Work, a venture to which Tim committed endless time and energy.



Presenting the Tim Stapleford Memorial Trophy to the winning team, from Holy Trinity who beat the Rest of the League team 5v3, was Tim's widow Sue. She said: "If Tim was here today he would pretend to be mortified but he would actually be chuffed to bits, and so thrilled at being remembered in a way which for him is perfect. He loved football.

"It was quite hard seeing the programme

with his face on it but it is good seeing so many lives that he touched and that there are people involved in football and are Christians because of him. The Jenny Lind Project was his dream and it would be terribly sad if it stopped."

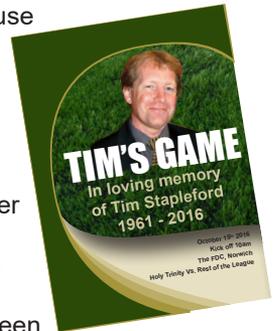
Tim's younger brother Robin, said: "The cause Tim has been involved in over the last few years has been magnificent. It brought together his twin passions of spirituality and sport. It's a great legacy to him. So hats off to him for putting his faith into effect. I am so touched and overwhelmed that today's game has been staged."

Introducing the game, league chairman, Mike Culwick said: "Tim was a man who desperately wanted to share his Christian faith with anyone he met, especially through sport and the Jenny Lind Project. There is no doubt that being with Tim has changed so many people's lives."

Bert Cadmore, chaplain at Norwich City FC, who spoke before the game, said: "Tim has inspired a lot of people with his Christian faith. He was a man of integrity, a man of compassion, a perceptive man of vision, but most of all he was a man of faith – and sharing that faith was close to Tim's heart."

Nigel Parfitt, chairman of management committee, Jenny Lind Project, said: "I played with Tim for 20 years. He was dynamic, encouraging, always enthusiastic and always gave his all for the team.

"It is fantastic to see the game today. It is a real witness to his vision for the Jenny Lind Project which we are trying to continue and build upon – football was at the core of it."



Fair Play Awards & Top Scorers

Adults

Fellowship - NCBC (Average 22)
Golden Boot - Daniel Jervis (NCBC 36 goals)

Under 16s

Fellowship - Heigham Park Rangers Hawks (Average 25)
Golden Boot - Bryn Mullen (Brooke 20 goals)

Under 14s

Fellowship - Stoke United (Average 24.33)
Golden Boot - Charlie Mayhew (Brooke 21 goals)

Under 12s

Fellowship - Worstead Wolves (Average 22.88)
Golden Boot - Joshua Davis (Lowestoft - 40 goals)

Under 10s

Fellowship - Lighthouse (Average 25)
No records for Golden Boot

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The Christian community website for Norwich and Norfolk

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www.networknorfolk.co.uk

Hall of Fame

League

LEAGUE	Winners	Runners up
2016	Norwich Central Baptist	UEA Rovers
2015	UEA Rovers	Norwich Central Baptist
2014	Norwich Central Baptist	UEA Rovers
2013	UEA Rovers	Norwich Central Baptist
2012	Surrey Chapel	UEA Wanderers

Adult

CUP	Winners	Runners up
2016	UEA Harriers	Norwich Central Baptist
2015	UEA Rovers	Kings Palace
2014	Holy Trinity	UEA Rovers
2013	UEA Rovers	UEA Wanderers
2012	Surrey Chapel	UEA Rovers

SHIELD	Winners	Runners up
2016	Kings	Soul Church
2015	Heartsease Lane Sewell	Soul Church
2014	Kings Palace	Kings United
2013	Norwich Central Baptist	Surrey Chapel
2012	Heartsease Churches	Norwich Central Baptist

League

LEAGUE	Under 10	Under 12	Under 14	Under 16
2016		Stoke United	Heartsease White	Brooke Adventurers
2015		Lighthouse	ENYP	Heigham Park Rangers
2014		Brooke Adventurers	Bowthorpe St Michael's	Cringleford Kestrels
2013	Brooke Adventurers	ENYP	St John's Y9	Holy Trinity
2012	Surrey Chapel	Cringleford Ospreys	Heartsease Black	Holy Trinity

Youth

CUP	Under 10	Under 12	Under 14	Under 16
2016	Thorpe Rovers	Brooke Adventurers	Heartsease White	Brooke Adventurers
2015	Brooke	Lighthouse	ENYP	St John's United
2014	Brooke	Heartsease Youth	ENYP	Holy Trinity (Reds)
2013		Heartsease Youth	Cringleford Kestrels	Bowthorpe St Peter's
2012		Cringleford Ospreys	Heartsease Black	Holy Trinity

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You will find a warm welcome at any of the following:

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30am for everyone with activities for children

'The Link' Coffee Club for over 55s Mondays 10:30-12:00 noon

'Little Steps' Wednesday morning toddler group meets during term time 9 - 11:30am

Messy Church usually monthly on a Saturday morning from 11am - 1pm with lots of activities for all the family (see website for dates)



Little Steps



For details of all WRBC activities please visit www.witardroadbaptist.org



www.norfolkcfli.co.uk

