



# Champions in the Community



**Redwood Colts FC** are a grassroots football club, run by volunteers, for the benefit of children and young adults, who want to learn to play football in a fun and safe environment.

The club was founded in February 2021 by **Warren Muir** during the Covid 19 Pandemic, who recognised the need to organise sporting activities for young people in local community, in Sinfin.

Redwood Colts aims to be a club to be proud of, its long-term vision is to provide grassroots football to children from the age of 4-16. They hope to add more teams on their journey allowing more young people an affordable route to being active.

Currently for 2022/23 season they have four teams entering Leagues; **U8s Raptors , U13s Raiders, U13s Athletic & U14s Utd**, meaning the club has doubled in size in less than one year.



**Warren Muir**, founder and manager of **Redwood Colts**, became inspired to do something for his own community. He saw that a lot of kids local to him were travelling out of Sinfin to play football regularly at a team he was previously coaching and he thought he could do something to help.

Warren worked tirelessly to build Redwood Colts, from nothing into the accredited club it is today in just over 18 months. As well as coaching every week and offering guidance to his young players, he has written development plans, gained an official club accreditation and taken the time to build relationships with the parents and guardians of each of the Redwood Colt players. Just before our interview he had just got off the phone with a mother who had concerns about her sons behaviour and the amount of time he was spending online. It is testament to Warren's dedication and passionate approach that he has time to offer this kind of support, and this dedication that makes it easy to see why the club is such a success both on and off the pitch. It is quickly becoming something the local community can be proud of.

The club started with two teams, The Under 12's and the under 13's, who enjoyed stellar seasons, winning their individual leagues at the first time of asking.



**Active Derbyshire/Move More Derby** chatted to Warren about his first season in charge off the back of winning an award at **Community Action Derby's Derby Volunteer Awards in June 2022. Warren won in the Sporting category.**

## The Colts in the Community

The Redwood Colts are passionate about their community. Most of the managers, coaches and volunteers have grown up in the area themselves. They have developed a strong network of up to 15 coaches and volunteers to help run the various groups and sessions on offer. The coaching and admin support comes from child welfare officers, families and volunteers.

**We asked Warren - What drives you?** "I'm doing it for the kids. I know how much football helped me as a kid. It helped me feel wanted and loved. It gave me my first experience of achieving something great and taught me the value of being part of a team and working hard."

Warren has been described as relentless which he rebuffs. "It's just what needs to happen to get things done and build something sustainable, I wanted to engage families and parents to be a part of the club, not just drop their kids off for childcare."

Redwood Colts plan to further engage the team to be a part of the community with fundraising opportunities and quiz nights to raise extra money for away matches, end of the season award ceremonies and cup matches. They have partnered with local club SEN United to help raise money to fund a local outdoor gym at a school in the area and they also donated Easter Eggs to people in the community. Warren is keen to support others to do good where possible, as it sets a good example for his young players.

# Champions in the Community



**What was the biggest learning for you when setting up Redwood Colts?**

Warren responds "Just knowledge of how to do it. Accessing the information was difficult. I'm a football coach by trade, and there isn't a plan for starting a club, I just did what was needed to be done. I started with a blank piece of paper and began researching and wrote a list of everything that was needed. But it was hard. Sleepless nights were spent researching everything from coaching badges, to kit suppliers. It was an administrative nightmare. I went down a lot of dead-end routes from setting up GoFundME pages to trying to gather interest on Facebook. There was a lack of trust in the beginning from people who didn't believe in what we were trying to do, but now they have seen the results they are starting to show interest in paying for their kids to join us. That's satisfying and long may it continue."



**Warren's shared some of what he learned which could help others who want to set up a group or club in their own community:**

- ⊗ Determine that there is a need/audience for your activity locally
- ⊗ Get to know the important people and processes that effect your activity. For example, if you need to hire a pitch, check it's availability and hiring process
- ⊗ Worry about the big, boring things first such as location, legalities and certifications
- ⊗ Set up an online profile with up-to-date contact details; this could be a website, Facebook Page, Instagram profile etc
- ⊗ Don't ask people for money before you have established trust and built strong relationships. This can be off putting
- ⊗ It's difficult to fundraise in the early stages, even through accredited websites, such as GoFundMe, do the minimum amount early on before gaining accreditation and trust
- ⊗ Involve parents and carers if it's aimed at children and young people
- ⊗ Ensure you are committed. It takes hard work and dedication and can be a thankless task
- ⊗ Be flexible
- ⊗ Be passionate
- ⊗ Be a jack of all trades and don't be afraid to ask for help



**Want to join Redwood Colts?**

Players pay £21 a month to play and that includes kit, training, match fees, away games, and awards/activities at the end of the season.

They train at Derby City Academy during the season which has excellent weatherproof facilities and play matches within 5 miles of Sinfin.

**Contact Us**

**FB** @Redwood2021

**Twitter** @FcRedwood

**Insta** redwoodcoltsfc

**Redwood Colts are an FA Accredited Charter Standard Club affiliated to Derbyshire FA, the club has a team of FA qualified coaches many of whom are local residents.**

