

Sporting Khalsa showcase their Vision

The club was established in 1991. Over the years the club has always played senior football in the local Walsall & District Sunday leagues. For two seasons between 1995 and 1997 the club played Saturday football at a semi-professional level. It has enjoyed modest success throughout.

From 1991 to 1997 it used to have a small number of youth sides and gained considerable success within the season 1995/96 by winning the Birmingham boys Under 16 league and became runner-up in the league cup. Due to lack of resources, both financial and manpower, it reluctantly abandoned the youth policy.

With a more solid foundation and re-organization of the executive committee in 2004, the club re-joined the West Midlands Regional League Division Two (semi-professional level seven league). In season 2004/05 the first team gained promotion into Division One of West Midlands Regional League (FA League Pyramid Structure level six). It also restarted a youth policy and fielded a under 8's and under 9's teams in the Walsall junior league.

2005 became a year to remember, as the club became the first Asian semi-professional football club in the country to own its own ground. The decision to purchase the Abbey Park Stadium (formerly home to Bloxwich Town) was taken by the club as it needed a permanent base from which to build upon its successes and built a centre for footballing excellence. Walsall Football Club played a friendly to mark the official opening of the new ground. A ladies team was introduced in 2006 that played in the South Staffordshire League. In 2007 the club played in the FA vase for its first time and lost to Barnt Green Spartak in the first qualify round and also introduced a veterans over 35s side in the Central Warwickshire Over 35s League.

After five years at Abbey Park ground, Sporting Khalsa announced in May 2010 that they would be purchasing the five acre freehold grounds of Willenhall Town FC from the Receivers. After extensive work on the pitch and social facilities with the total outlay of over half million pounds the stadium was finished on the eve of the 2010/11 season. In its first season at their new Aspray Arena home the club gained promotion to the Premier Division of the West Midlands Regional League.

Last season the club played in the FA Cup for it's first time in it's history, and progressed to the 1st qualifying round. Our sunday team won the Warley Sunday Premier League and also progressed to the 4th round of the FA national cup.

For the current season 2013/14 the club will be fielding 3 adult teams, 3 academy teams and further 9 juniors sides.

The club currently holds the prestigious FA Community Club Charter Standard status.

The club aims to help tackle social exclusion, and provide football opportunities for all members of the community. Sporting Khalsa aims to use "the power of sport" to contribute to the tackling of social exclusion. Sport belongs to, and should be enjoyed by, everyone equally. Our commitment is to eliminate discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or ability and to encourage equal opportunities and to enable and provide access to a range of sports for all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, ability, race

or religion. The main current activity the club participates in is football but, it also runs various other sports club like badminton, tennis, ski, bhangra and keep fit clubs.

More recently Sporting Khalsa showcased their medium to long term plans for Aspray Arena and the community. A meeting of invited guests which included West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner Bob Jones, Chief Inspector Sue Parker, Asst Chief Constable Marcus Beale, Stuart Laight MD of Aspray 24, Brian Adshead Chief Executive of Staffordshire FA, George Berry from the Professional Footballers Association, councillors, local business leaders and club members.

The evening hosted by Avi Pawar from Aspect Law began with welcoming guests and introductions. A short video presentation showed the guests where the club started from with humble beginnings in 1991 at Memorial Park, Willenhall through to the present day and then the vision for the next few months & years. These included plans for the provision of a variety of sports which will be accessible to the whole community. This will include as well as football, hockey, tag rugby, martial arts, boxing, yoga amongst others.

Following the video presentation current Sporting Khalsa coach & manager of the Under 21s talked about his story, from a life of crime, prison & the tragic loss of a close friend he had found through football a route on to the right path and using the power of sport and his own hard work and dedication has set himself about on a new career path at the same time working as a mentor to many others who find themselves in a similar situation he was a few years ago.

By this time the guests had a real understanding of what Sporting Khalsa was about, and what they look to achieve, they are more than a football club they are hub of the community filled with positive, ambitious people who as volunteers are happy and willing to welcome and support everyone in their community. A message underpinned by a speech by Stuart Laight who spoke of how in the short time he had witnessed the change, the growth and community spirit the club had installed and that Aspray were to continue to be a long term supporter of the club and its plans.

Bob Jones, Police & Crime commissioner spoke to the audience of the importance of organisations like Sporting Khalsa to the community and how our work serves to support the police and probation services.

Brian Adshead, Chief Executive Staffs FA spoke how he had seen the club grow and were seen as a beacon and standard setters within the region.

The evening concluded by the invited guests showing and pledging their support to Sporting Khalsa and its vision by a symbolic signing of a football.

To keep an eye on our progress follow us on Twitter @SportingKhalsa or via our website www.sportingkhalsa.com . We appreciate the support all our teams receive and welcome supporters to both home & away games details of which will always be posted in advance.