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By the time this is published we will have started the new season. We have registered Under 14's and Under 10's in the Wensleydale League. Still called the Wensleydale League, it now covers all of Richmondshire and well into Hambleton.

Identifying and recruiting coaches remains our biggest problem along with a seriously declining number of children in the Dales. We have not been able to register Under 12's and, until we have a coach, we cannot offer football for this age group. We also seek a coach for the Under 8's where there are some good potential players.

Demographic changes in the Dales is resulting in an increasing number of older people, who, along with second home buyers, buy up all the houses so there is a dwindling number of younger people who might get involved in coaching or produce children to play. We are in talks with other clubs to look at possible partnerships.

The unfortunate allegation of cheating by another club, in matches against us, at the end of last season was finally settled when the other club eventually admitted culpability. Sadly that club will not be participating in the League next season. It has meant that our Under 12's finished 3rd in the League. A very creditable performance.

The League has adopted the FA Youth Development 3 part season. September/November there will be conventional Development Football. Results will be collected but no League tables published and the results used for "banding" in the third part. The intention is to develop players without the weekly challenge of League position. In the bleak mid winter we will play Futsal indoors on a competitive league basis. This will be a new experience for us. This is followed by a conventional league programme where teams are put into bands so they play more evenly balanced matches and avoid cricket scores. We will see how it works!

One of the strongest qualities of the Wensleydale League is its commitment to the FA Respect Programme. Consequently, there are very few instances of the sort of behaviour and foul language, particularly by parents, which one reads about and which, it is alleged, is common in leagues not too far from here. It is therefore, no accident that the Wensleydale League is, I think, the first in the County to achieve Charter Standard.

If you can coach or have children who want to play **please get in touch.** We really need you.

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