ANNUAL REVIEW
2018/19 SEASON
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019
Since finalising our accounts for the year ended 30 June 2019 and writing the Strategic Report below, the world has changed drastically. The Covid-19 virus has created a public health emergency and taken many loved ones from families and friends. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to everyone affected.

Due to Covid-19 the outlook for every business is uncertain and football clubs are no different. Our Club went into this in excellent shape financially. During the current financial year 2019/20 we had used the proceeds of the Aaron Wan-Bissaka sale to comply with FFP and pay down our bank debt leaving only some relatively small deferred transfer payments outstanding.

Whilst no-one can give complete assurances about the future, we are committed to bringing the Club out of this crisis in as strong a state as possible in order that we can build on the success of the past 10 years. Last month the Club has taken on some new external debt so that we have as much liquidity as possible to see us through this challenging period.

Finally, I would like to send everyone the very best wishes in this difficult time. I look forward to welcoming you back to Selhurst Park when it’s safe to do so.

Steve Parish,
Crystal Palace F.C. Chairman
The 2018/19 season was yet another season of growth and stability for the club, led ably by first-team manager Roy Hodgson.

It will be remembered in the Palace annals for the arrival of several new players who made an instant impact, an outstanding win at Manchester City courtesy of the Premier League Goal of the Season from Andros Townsend, and memorable away wins over Leicester City and Arsenal.

This document tells the story of the season, shares an update from Chairman Steve Parish and gives financial headline figures.
An emotional final day saw fans, players and staff wave farewell to club legends Julian Speroni and Jason Puncheon.

The 2018/19 campaign was Crystal Palace FC’s sixth successive season in the Premier League.

The squad was bolstered with the additions of Vicente Guaita, Cheikhou Kouyate, Max Meyer, and Jordan Ayew joining on loan in the summer.

The Eagles began with a bang, beating Fulham away on the opening day of the season. A draw away at Manchester United was an impressive and long-awaited result, but the highlight was undoubtedly the 2-3 win at Manchester City, memorable for an Andros Townsend volley that would go on to win the Premier League Goal of the Season. City would lose just once in the entire league season, and would go on to be crowned champions.

In January, Palace added Michy Batshuayi, Lucas Piazon and Bakary Sako on loan for the run-in. Batshuayi’s impact was significant, netting six times for Palace.

Impressive wins away at Leicester City and Arsenal told the story of the season, with the side’s away form considerably better than at Selhurst Park.

An emotional final day saw fans, players and staff wave farewell to club legends Julian Speroni and Jason Puncheon, and fittingly their team-mates defeated AFC Bournemouth 5-3 in entertaining fashion.

Palace would finish in a respectable 12th place under Roy Hodgson, well clear of the relegation zone to secure a club record seventh successive season in the country’s top flight.

Palace would finish in a respectable 12th place under Roy Hodgson, well clear of the relegation zone to secure a club record seventh successive season in the country’s top flight. Hodgson also signed a year’s contract extension during the season.

In the summer, the club’s Player of the Season Aaron Wan-Bissaka would leave for Manchester United, with the Academy graduate having played 42 games for the first team.

Our Under 23s finished third, our Under 18s fifth, and our Under 15s were crowned National Floodlit Cup champions. Our Women’s team finished their first season in the Women’s Championship in 11th.
Aside from the necessary sale of Aaron Wan-Bissaka, key players were retained and prudent and opportune acquisitions were made, bolstering the squad at relatively low cost, whilst removing the danger of breaching Financial Fair Play Regulations. External debt was repaid, putting the Club in a good position to invest for the future.

The Directors submit their report and the group financial statements of CPFC 2010 Limited for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Strategic Report

The 2018/19 season saw the club consolidate its position in the Premier League, and overall the Club continues to grow and develop on what has been a remarkable journey from administration in 2010.

Our key objectives remain: maintaining our status and improving our position in the Premier League, developing all our facilities to create and attract world-class players, improving the matchday experience and operating the club in a financially prudent way.

I’m delighted that our non-media related income grew by just under £2m over the period thanks to the excellent work of our commercial team, and our broadcast income grew by £3.2m both contributing to a record-breaking £155.4m income before transfers.

Aside from the necessary sale of Aaron Wan-Bissaka, key players were retained and prudent and opportune acquisitions were made, bolstering the squad at relatively low cost, whilst removing the danger of breaching Financial Fair Play Regulations. External debt was repaid, putting the Club in a good position to invest for the future.

The outcome of this season brought about some tremendous highs, including the fabulous win at champions Manchester City, and of course a few lows along the way. Ultimately 12th place continues the trend of a solid mid-table finish for the Club.

Whilst it’s easy to take securing a seventh successive year in the Premier League for granted, this is a record for the Club and the manner in which it was concluded with a resounding win over AFC Bournemouth shows how far the Club has progressed. Whilst our ambitions are still to move forward, it’s important to reflect on the progress made as well.

We need to work on all fronts to make sure Premier League success continues but also ensure the Club develops and evolves into one we can all continue to be proud of for many years to come - with the facilities to support our ambition.

Future Plans

We have also made important progress with our Academy plans, having secured a long-term lease and Planning Approval for the Beckenham directly site opposite our first team training ground. This significant investment is about much more than an overhaul of the facilities at the site, it’s about ensuring the next generation of Wilfried Zahah and Aaron Wan-Bissakas choose Crystal Palace as the place to develop their talents.

The development of Selhurst Park is also continuing, with numerous agreements to be concluded and finalised, most notably with Sainsbury’s for the car park and access space needed to facilitate the development. We hope to have all these agreements concluded and be in a position to move forward in the near future.

Overall, it’s a tremendously exciting time at the Club. We need to work on all fronts to make sure Premier League success continues but also ensure the Club develops and evolves into one we can all continue to be proud of for many years to come - with the facilities to support our ambition.
Crystal Palace Under-15s made history by winning the national Super Floodlit Cup final for the first time, defeating Wigan Athletic 3-2 in the Final after beating Chelsea in the semis.

Our Academy season was marked by moments of individual accomplishment and younger prospects thriving amongst older, more experienced opposition.

The standout highlight came from the club’s much-praised Under-15 team, who made history by winning the national Super Floodlit Cup. The young Eagles overcame Wigan Athletic in a five-goal thriller when the promising Zion Atta scored in the final seconds to secure a 3-2 victory. This triumph was Palace’s first Super Floodlit Cup trophy – crowning them as deserved national champions. The tournament provided another highlight with a 3-0 victory over Category 1 club Chelsea, and then Cup holders, in the Regional final.

At Under-18 level, many of Paddy McCarthy’s squad benefitted from inclusion in Under-23 matches throughout the season. The likes of Malachi Boateng (16-years-old at the start of the campaign), Brandon Parnell (16) and Brandon Aveiro (16) played regularly for the Development side – facing 23-year-old prospects and seasoned professionals alike. The Under-18s finished their league campaign with a flourish, going on a six game unbeaten run to secure a fifth-place finish in the league. Highlights included a 5-0 triumph over Hull City, 4-1 victory over Watford and 4-1 success against Birmingham City. Additionally, the majority of this squad competed in the Under-19 Winter Tournament in Israel, a unique opportunity for the prospects to compete with older, international opposition and benefit from a taste of tournament football abroad.

At Development level, the Under-23s were able to send the likes of Oliver Webber, Joseph Hungbo and Nya Kirby on successful loan spells. Kirby’s time with League One side Blackpool provided a particular success story, with the young midfielder collecting the Seasiders’ April Player of the Month award. Palace’s first-team was also able to call upon several Development players in Ryan Inniss, Sullay Kaikai, Sam Woods and Luke Dreher, while Dion-Curtis Henry, Joe Tupper, Nikola Tavares, Kirby and Gio McGregor made first-team benches. Inniss, Woods and Dreher would make their professional debuts, with Woods going on to feature regularly in professional squads.

In the league, the Under-23s had to contend with many of their most central performers either joining first-team squads or embarking on loan spells, but still secured an impressive third-place finish.

The club was proud to award Malachi Boateng and Kian Flanagan with the Under-18s’ and Under-23s’ Player of the Season awards respectively.

On the international stage, Crystal Palace was represented well across the age groups in both matches and training camps:

- Nya Kirby, Joe Whitworth, Jadan Raymond, Ryan Bartley, Kadon Rodney, John Kyraniri Gordon
- Jadan Raymond
- Finn Mooney
- Oliver Webber
- Nikola Tavares
- Brandon Aveiro
During the 2018/19 season, Palace for Life Foundation experienced a period of growth and significant achievements, with almost 9,000 sessions and events taking place in the communities around Selhurst Park to help support more than 14,000 vulnerable young people, using the power of Palace.

We are acutely aware of the unacceptable levels of violent crime in London and how this disproportionately affects young people, both as victims and perpetrators. In response, we grew our targeted intervention programmes for young people on the cusp of joining a gang or getting caught up in crime. This included a full-time coach based in Croydon Custody Suite as part of the Divert programme, which has now helped over 130 young people get back into education, training or employment after being arrested.

We were delighted that the achievements of this programme were recognised when it was named Community Project of the Year at the London Football Awards.

Our Breaking the Cycle mentoring programme has also continued to grow, with one of our participants hired by the CPFC club shop to work on matchdays and several young people who had been excluded from school have now returned to mainstream education.

The demand for our Team Mates targeted mental health intervention increased and we are now delivering this in 10 primary schools. Alongside classroom sessions, our coaches held specialist training for 56 school staff to help them identify and assist young people experiencing a mental health issue.

We supported 700 young people on our disability programmes, running Down’s Syndrome, Powerchair, visually impaired and adult mental health teams. The generous support of Palace fans who played the matchday Super Draw allowed us to purchase three new powerchairs and our team went on to win their first ever match!

As ever, we took a number of Palace stars, including Wilf Zaha, to visit primary schools and community events this season, always to a rapturous reaction. A memorable highlight was our ‘Eagle Swoop’ dance routine and film, created with the BBC for the Super Movers campaign that encourages children to get active. Pupils from Oasis Ryelands School starred alongside Christian Benteke, Patrick van Aanholt, Carey Watling and Jordan Butland and the film was showcasing by the Premier League and shown on the big screen at Selhurst Park.

Perhaps one of our proudest achievements was our second Marathon March, a 26.2 mile walk from Selhurst Park to central London. The chairman, Steve Parish, joined 150 Palace fans and a number of club legends, helping us to raise over £100,000.

As we look ahead, we know there is still a lot more we could be doing and will continue to work tirelessly to support those young people in our community who most need our help.

Mike Summers, Palace for Life Foundation Chief Executive

One of our proudest achievements was our second Marathon March, a 26.2 mile walk from Selhurst Park to central London. The chairman, Steve Parish, joined 150 Palace fans and a number of club legends, helping us to raise over £100,000.
Overall, the club remains in a solid financial position, with steady commercial growth. Retaining Premier League status is of critical importance, as is renewed investment in our stadium and Academy to ensure our future as a sustainable top-flight club.

*As of 31 Dec 2019
These results show the Club has continued to grow the business, invest in the squad and manage player wages carefully.