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Crown Circular

May 2023

We pride ourselves on our exemplary youth workers at Crown & Manor. Here, Spike Steggall talks about his extraordinary career to date and the balancing act of a many faceted career. We are delighted to employ people who have such a positive impact on our members.

Spike Steggall, one of our youth workers, also plays for the Dorking Wanderers F.C.

"I've been working for three nights a week at Crown & Manor for over a year and a half now, beginning when I was 17. I have worked with many people, from young people to people older than myself. It is such a fantastic place to work and be around. It has a great positive impact on all of these boys, a place where they can learn so much including new skills.

"My current work schedule is quite packed. Alongside football, I work at C&M on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings. I play football Monday mornings, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and matches on Saturdays, and I work as a PE Teacher on Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays in the mornings until the afternoon.

"I always played football as a kid, but I only started playing properly in grassroots at the age of 9, where I stayed until the age of 14. At that point I started trialling for clubs, the most recent one being in 2020 where I was at Reading F.C. for a one week trial, extended to 5 weeks, playing the likes of Chelsea and Leicester City F.C.

"I was playing for a National League team called Woking F.C. when I began at C&M,

"In the summer of 2022 I had an opportunity to sign for a team also in the National League called Dorking Wanderers F.C., the difference being their vision as a club and the potential opportunity there - so I took it.



"After one session with the B Team, I was invited to train with the first team for pre-season fitness, which I did extremely well in. I was invited back for the next training session and the first pre-season match, and then for the first team against Roffey F.C. in a 5-0 win.

"I then went on to play the rest of the 5 pre-season games for them, playing the likes of Chelsea u21's with players such as Michi Batshuayi, Belgium international who played in the semi-final of the 2018 World Cup.

"When the season started, I was not involved in the matches but always in training, the youngest player in the sessions by 5 years.

"In December, a virus spread in the football club and many players became ill. We had a FA Trophy match coming that weekend against National League side Yeovil Town F.C., so I was picked to travel with the squad. On the coach there, I was told I was starting the match at Left-Back. Making my full competitive debut, I played very well and came off in the 65th minute for a striker for a change of formation. We drew 0-0 and won on penalties."

We are so lucky to have Spike in our team. Our members find him absolutely inspirational.



5-a-side football - in London this weekend

Crown & Manor is putting forward two teams for the second 5-a-side football tournaments on Sunday, 14th May. With eight teams slogging it out on the pitches in Market Road, London N7 9PL it will be fast paced and intensive play. Each match will be just nine minutes each way. Our teams will play six other teams put together by local employers. Last year was a fantastic event and we're looking forward to a repeat on Sunday.

This is a fundraising event so if you feel like contributing, please do so on our Just Giving account: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/football2023?invite=true>



We had a fantastic turnout for our Open Evening on 26th April - huge thanks to all involved. Feedback since the event has been extremely positive. Our management team talked about the day-to-day running of the club. Members talked about their experiences. Parents met local businesses who might potentially be interested in working closely with C&M; old boys met some of our current donors. Meg Hillier MP joined us - all in all, a tremendous endorsement of everything the club represents.



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