

15 August 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian/Player

We thought we would drop you a letter before the season begins outlining the plan for the season ahead and also about the club in general.

The Club

The Club insists on good behaviour on and off the pitch when at training or at games. The club ethos is very important to us and is one of things, we believe, that differentiates us from so many other clubs. This ethos is embedded within our Player and Parents charters which can be found on our website. We would ask that you (re)acquaint with these.

In order to ensure smooth running of the club, and to ensure all of our bills are paid on time, we would ask that the quarterly fees (£40 per player) are paid within two weeks of receipt of the letter.

For information, this £40 covers the costs of the home strip, all training and pitch lets and referees fees. We also ask the boys to pay an additional £1 per game – however, this money is not returned to the club but held by the coaches and used for the boys to enjoy an end-of-season event. We try to keep a record of all incomings and outgoings on the website to allow you to see what the money is being used for.

The Team

We are now in a much tougher league than last season and, accordingly, we will be changing some of our practices this season, and reinforcing others.

Playing Time Up until now we have tried our best to give everyone a fair amount of time on the pitch, whilst also trying to win every game. Usually every boy gets at least half a game but for this season this may not be the case. No one will be guaranteed a game (including coaches' sons).

We will always do our best to continue the practice of playing everyone but this will depend on the opposition, how we are playing, who has turned up at training etc.,. We thought we would let everyone know now rather than a boy coming home without playing and boy/parent being upset. No one will be given preference other than for the good of the team.

Training A number of issues came up regarding training this past season. We, the coaches, give up our time to go to the games and training - there is nothing more annoying or dispiriting for us and the boys who have turned up, than some boys not appearing, particularly when they have given no prior notice of this.

We appreciate many of the boys have other interests outwith football include the 4th year exams, which we all consider to be the main focus this year. However a phone call, email or text to one of the coaches is an absolute must (all phone numbers/e-

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mail address can be found on our website). Word of mouth is not acceptable as almost every time this has happened we only hear about it at training. We feel this is essential to our progress this season. If there is insufficient numbers due to studying, school dance etc, we will cancel training for the night and a note to this effect will be posted on the website.

If you do not contact a coach to say you are unavailable, your position for the next game will be in doubt.

When at training we would appreciate everyone trying their best. On some occasions the general behaviour has been a bit poor. We are obviously all there to enjoy ourselves but we would like everyone listen to the coaches and put as much effort in as possible. If this is not applied, like before, your position in the team may be jeopardised. In the past, we have not always had a big enough squad to enforce this rule but, with the addition of a few new players this season, we should now be able to do this – you have been warned!!!

Note that training lets are as follows:

MONDAYS – Muirend Astro 8.00 – 9.30
THURSDAYS – Mearns 3Ms pitch – 8.00 -9.30

Website A considerable amount of time and effort is made by the coaches to make the u16s page of the club website as informative and current as possible. For example, details of matches, training etc are always posted on the site. Could all boys and parents please use the website as often as possible to check up on training and meet times. Last season we made numerous phone calls from venues to players to ask where they were, only to be told they didn't know we had a game!

Team Trip For the first time, we are considering arranging a trip for the team. Unfortunately, u16 tournaments in the UK are few and far between so we may need to venture further afield. It is clearly imperative that we ensure any trip does not interfere with exam preparation or exam times - there is the possibility of a tournament in Belgium from the end of May 2009 but we can't yet say whether this time is suitable as the SQA cannot confirm the dates of the 4th year exams until the end of this month.

We will keep you posted on this trip via the website.

We hope this short letter lets everyone know the position of the club and coaches. Fundamentally, we are all here to enjoy ourselves and hopefully we can do that and have a great season. If you have any questions or concerns, we are always happy to hear from you.

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