

# **BUNTINGFORD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

13 Meadow View Buntingford Herts SG9 9SQ  
Tel; 07970 022148 Email; richarddaly@buntingfordtownfc.com



Founded 1897

Affiliated to the Hertfordshire County Football Association

[www.buntingfordtownfc.com](http://www.buntingfordtownfc.com)

## **Buntingford Town FC Press Release**

**7th June 2007**

### **Herts Senior County League Premiership Title**

*Any of the text below can be printed as a quote by Richard Daly, Buntingford Town F.C. Chairman.  
For any questions please call Richard on 07970 022148.*

On Wednesday 6th June Buntingford Town FC (BTFC) representatives attended a Herts Senior County League (HSCL) management committee meeting to explain the details surrounding the charge of fielding an ineligible player and appeal against the league's decision to deduct points from BTFC.

At the HSCL management committee meeting the HSCL made it clear that it would maintain the charges against BTFC as the HSCL are bound by Football Association player qualification rules.

Buntingford Town F.C have also been asked to clarify in writing the situation with the Football Association (F.A.) registrations Department at Soho. The club are yet to hear from the F.A. in response to a letter sent to the F.A.

Buntingford Town F.C. maintains complete confidence that no one at the club knowingly broke any rules. The player (who B.T.F.C. have refused to name) signed registration forms with BTFC that were accepted by the County League. The player participated in three matches for the club, two of those matches being league matches that Buntingford won, these matches are the matches that points were subsequently deducted. The third game was a cup match that Buntingford lost.

At some stage BTFC understand that a HSCL member club contacted the HSCL to inform them of their suspicion that the player had a contract with a club that plays in a different league and under a different county association to that of Buntingford Town FC. After the conclusion of the season and upon investigation with the F.A. by both the HSCL and Buntingford Town it was confirmed that the player had a signed contract recorded at F.A. headquarters with another club. F.A. player qualification rules on contracted players C. 1. (i) state that "A Player registered with The Association can play only for the Club holding the registration."

Buntingford Town F.C. will not comment on the actual signing of the contract and not name the player or the club involved because the F.A. are still dealing with the matter. However Buntingford Town F.C believe that at the time of signing the contract the player had a different understanding of the commitment he

was making therefore leading him to believe that he was not a player contracted to any club under F.A. rules. This appears to have been a genuine and unfortunate error. Buntingford Town F.C. is not apportioning any culpability to any individual or organisation in this matter.

Unfortunately the whole issue highlights the difficulty that so many football clubs often have with the limited voluntary resources available within their committees to ensure that administratively they are always compliant to every minute detail of their leagues, their county association and the F.A.'s rules. On this occasion BTFC believe the only way to have absolutely guaranteed that the issue did not arise would be to physically check every player registering with Buntingford Town F.C. with the F.A. registrations department before actually fielding a player. Considering that BTFC will register over 200 players with all of their teams in a season this sadly is just not feasible with the resource available and unfortunately the authorities that deal with such matters apply no discretion or empathy. As far as Buntingford Town F.C. are aware there are no clubs competing at the same level who routinely carry out such checks.

Ultimately we suspect that we will have to return the impressive HSCL shield at some stage but in the eyes of everyone at BTFC and based on calls and emails we have received this feeling is shared by many; We are proud of our achievement this season and congratulate all BTFC players and staff who have all contributed to another hugely successful season.

We would like to thank the HSCL and the F.A. for dealing with this matter efficiently plus the HSCL member clubs and other local football clubs who have contacted us to offer their support and best wishes.

Everyone at the club is looking forward to another successful campaign next season.

Richard Daly  
Chairman  
Buntingford Town F.C.