
BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

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FOUNDED 1897

Affiliated to the Hertfordshire Football Association

www.buntingfordtownfc.com

Information for Prospective Players

2008 – 2009 Season

Introduction

This document has been produced as guidance to you, a prospective player for Buntingford Town FC, to demonstrate what the club expects from you and also what you may expect from the club for the forthcoming 2008/09 season.

Should you wish to become a member of Buntingford Town FC you will be required to sign a 'Player Agreement' which is a formal commitment by both parties to your membership. This document contains some key points from the Agreement.

About Buntingford Town FC

Buntingford Town FC is a pay-to-play club. We do not pay our players. Our committee is made up of volunteers who also receive no payment for the work they do.

This season we will have two teams in the Herts County League (which sits at Step 7 of the FA non-league pyramid), playing on Saturdays and also midweek when required. We also will be fielding one Veteran side (over 35's) playing friendlies on Sunday mornings.

What we offer

Our home matches are played at 'The Bury' in Buntingford, a facility dedicated to football which is situated at the Sainsbury Distribution Centre to the south of the town. The clubhouse and pitch are continually being improved and Buntingford Town FC is committed to supporting the efforts made by those at The Bury in progressing football in the town.

Training from September to March will be held at Hitchin Town's Norton Road facility in Baldock, a facility which is widely regarded as being one of the best in the area.

Naturally we also provide kit, training equipment and other necessities for match-days.

Chairman: Chris Thurgill. Treasurer: Steve Hume. Secretary: Chris Thurgill. Fixture Secretary: Dean Howard.

Committee: Richard Morris, Steve Blackaby, Laurence Salmon.

President: Frank Mott. Vice Presidents: Frank Aylott, Malcolm Batchelor.

Conduct

As representatives of the club you will be required to act in a responsible way at matches, training and social events.

You should be in good mental and physical condition for any Buntingford Town FC activity, and we will expect you to inform your manager in good time if you are unable to attend training or matches.

The club will treat players with grievances in a fair and just manner; in return we will ask that you respect the club's decisions and processes too.

How we are financed

The club is financed by a mixture of contributions from players, and funds raised by the committee.

Even at County League level costs to the club are high. League and FA registrations make a dent in our finances even before the season has started, and match-day expenses can also run into triple figures.

The fact that costs are high does not deter us from trying to provide the best for our players, as can be seen from the fact that we train at Baldock.

In order to play for the club, you will be required to pay:

- A non-refundable £25 subscription fee
- Match-day fees of £5 per game
- Any fines incurred by yourself during the course of the season

We believe that our fees are very reasonable when you consider you will be getting up to 9 months of football, week in, week out. Indeed, these fees alone would not fully finance the club; the committee has to raise substantial additional monies from sponsorship and fundraising events in order to cover costs.

We think that this effort is preferable to raising fees so they cover all our costs; we do not want to deter players from joining us by charging them too much.

Frequently asked questions

- Q. Is 'The Bury' owned by Buntingford Town FC?
A. No. The Bury is leased from Sainsbury by Buntingford Football Corporation.
- Q. I am used to being paid expenses by my previous club. May I expect the same here?
A. No. Players have never been paid out of club funds and we do not expect that situation to change.
- Q. £25 seems a bit steep in order to become a member. What do I get for it?
A. The club needs cash early on in the season to cover our FA Affiliation and league and cup registration costs. Also, if you consider that £25 will pay for less than 20 minutes hire of the training pitch at Baldock, you can understand why we think our fees are reasonable.
- Q. If I am expected to pay £5 for a match but only get 20 minutes of play, isn't that a bit unreasonable?
A. Yes, we agree. Managers have been instructed to collect £55 per match from their team. If you do not play a full match the manager will split your match fee pro-rata with another player who did not get a full game.