

BURY CATERING

THE BURY

The home of Buntingford's Football

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PRESS RELEASE

Buntingford Football Clubs Agree Lease Extension For The Bury

The Bury, home to Buntingford Town FC and Buntingford Cougars Youth FC since January 2004 has announced that it has successfully negotiated with Sainsbury Supermarkets Ltd to extend the lease currently held on the sports facility at the Sainsbury distribution depot, for a further ten years. This is the culmination of a great deal of effort from the members, supporters, friends of The Bury and in particular Richard Daly, who have transformed a disused clubhouse into the vibrant centre of the Buntingford community that it is today.

Three years ago the two football clubs in a joint venture, took on the responsibility for maintaining and managing the sports field and clubhouse, and since then, as well as being the venue for football matches played and supported by the people of Buntingford, The Bury has also hosted a number of very varied events, such as birthday and anniversary celebrations, town twinning meetings, fund raising quiz nights and discos, Rock-nites, corporate events, darts and pool finals and on Sunday, 5th August The Bury will host its first 'It's a Knockout' tournament, which should be a spectacular day for the enjoyment of the whole community.

There has also been a great deal of success on the pitch with the town's senior club, Buntingford Town FC winning a number of trophies since playing at The Bury including the Herts. Senior County League Division 1 title and Intermediate Cup in 2005, The Floodlit Cup in 2006 and also finished this season at the top of HSCL Premier Division. BTFC youth teams have celebrated success in winning the Eastern Junior Alliance North Division in 2005, the Ridgeons League and Cup double and an international youth tournament in Denmark, The Dana Cup, all in 2006. Buntingford Cougars Youth FC have also benefited from playing at The Bury with the Under 10's team winning their division of the Royston Crow Youth Football League in their first season in league football.

In a very short time The Bury has established itself as an integral part of the social and sporting fabric of the town of Buntingford and with the support of Sainsburys is now able to continue to offer an excellent football facility that will provide not only competitive football, but also football for the whole community from first boots to last and with the security of another ten years of tenure there is now the possibility of funding being made available to further improve the facility for the benefit of all the members.

*Company Secretary Alan Deville,
Directors: Dean Howard, Clare Bell, Barry Tokely.*

Quotes

Richard Daly; Chairman of Buntingford Town FC:

“For the football clubs of Buntingford this is fantastic news. It is great to have the terms of the lease finally signed and confirmed for a further ten years. For me personally this is the culmination of a process that started six years ago when we first approached Sainsburys regarding the sports facility. The team responsible for the facility and for everyone who has contributed to working parties and volunteered their time for the facility should feel immensely proud.

An extension of ten years for the lease means that we can now apply to the FA for grant funding to develop and improve the venue as a football facility. We will be hoping to also gain support from local businesses and the corporate world to help us to achieve our ambition at Buntingford Town FC of moving onto the next step of the F.A's national league system.

It's great news not just for Buntingford Town FC and Buntingford Cougars Youth FC but also for the overall community of Buntingford who derive great pleasure in enjoying the facilities for many other activities in addition to football. I would suggest that The Bury is the most family friendly environment where a family can enjoy watching local football as well as big screen sports than anywhere else I have seen. We will also now continue to enjoy seeing people just pop up to the clubhouse for a drink while their children play in the play area.

We are very grateful to our friends at Sainsburys for granting an extension to the lease and their overall support at the facility that extends to the staff at the Buntingford depot and to the directors at their Holborn head office. I am not sure if they always realise the vital importance that this facility plays in our community an the benefit and enjoyment so many people get from it whether they be young, old, footballers or not so many people love The Bury.”

Jason Rowley; Chairman of Buntingford Cougars Youth FC:

"From a Buntingford Cougars point of view, this is fantastic news, as "the Bury" has become the home of football at all levels within the town, and gives us a hugely recognizable asset to any of our visiting teams. However, the facility is becoming far more wide reaching than that, as it has become a very popular place for families to visit, whether sport interested or not, as children can play safely in the much improved play area. All those involved in securing this lease have worked extremely hard, and deserve a huge vote of thanks from everyone."

Oliver Heald M.P.;

“I am absolutely delighted that the Club has been able to extend the lease for a further 10 years. This is great news for Buntingford and for Buntingford football players and their supporters. When I have visited the Club in the past, I have been very impressed at the commitment of all involved and at what good work is being done with young players. Many congratulations.”