

BLEAK HILL ROVERS

Newsletter No 1-Spring 2017

Welcome to the Bleak Hill Rovers Newsletter which will be published three times a year and bring you information about the club and also give you the opportunity to contribute as you wish (subject to Editorial Scrutiny!!!)

As many of you know our vision is to be :

A community club where football can be enjoyed, irrespective of ability.

We have recently had a presentation from the FA on their "Respect" programme (<http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/respect>) which helped us all appreciate the potential pitfalls of becoming too engrossed in winning at the expense of ensuring the youngsters enjoy the game and so we would like to ask you to encourage your youngsters but, more importantly, help them enjoy *their* game of football.

DBS/Safeguarding

Well before the recent FA crackdown on Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) checks, we were in the process of ensuring that all our coaches had up-to-date certificates as it is one of the criteria to become a coach at the club.

We are holding a Safeguarding course for our coaches on 22nd February when a representative of the FA will take us through our responsibilities to the youngsters.

Teams

Currently we are running 24 teams including 3 skills groups for the youngsters who are too young to play in our under 7s team. Next year we will have at least the same number of teams and so if you feel you want to help us with coaching, managing etc please get in touch.

Ideally we want to start training sessions for girls but at the moment we do not have anyone who is able to take on the role.

Presentation day 2016/17 season

We are in the process of finalising the organisation of our presentation day which will be held on 24th June 2016. We have provisionally booked De La Salle school for the day when we hope to celebrate a really enjoyable season. This will also give you the opportunity to meet other parents in different age groups but also to take the opportunity to thank all our coaches for their tremendous hard work in ensuring our youngsters have the opportunity to play football.

Website

Our website (www.bleakhillrovers.com) is now working so please visit it regularly to see what is happening at the club.

Bleak Hill Rovers Kit 2017/18

The coaches at their last meeting decided that all Bleak Hill Rovers' teams should play in the same kit. This will be a yellow shirt, dark blue shorts and socks with goalkeepers wearing a green jersey.

We are currently negotiating a deal with Nike for their Park VI kit which will be more economical and give us many benefits including a contribution to training for our coaches. There will also be a "Nike" club shop where you can order equipment and club branded items.

We hope to conclude the deal by mid March and it will come into place from 1st June 2017.

It was really encouraging to see that we were recommended to Nike by the Liverpool FA who see us as a pro-active club and one that they want to encourage whenever possible.

Fees for 2017/18

For many years we have been concerned that coaches are having to spend a lot of their valuable time collecting both annual subs and winter training fees. In order to simplify the process, we are combining the annual subs and winter training fees into an annual subscription which we would like you to pay by direct debit. This can be done monthly from 1st May, as an annual lump sum, quarterly or half yearly.

The costs of running the Club have increased as we ensure we meet the FA coaching requirements and so we have also had to increase the annual membership fee which has not changed for several years.

For some families the combination of increased fees, change in fee structure and payment of winter training costs results in a significant increase the the amount to pay. Can I stress that we do not want anyone to have to stop playing due to this change. Please contact Steve Kenny, our Welfare Officer, if you feel that we can help support you during the transition.

Attached is a note about the fee increase and the various ways to pay.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or any of the coaches if there is anything you wish to chat about or are concerned about.

Finally can I thank you all and especially the coaches for your support of Bleak Hill Rovers. This is out 40th year and without your support we would not be able to field 24 teams each weekend with over 250 youngsters enjoying a game of football.

Cyril Barratt (cbarratt@blueyonder.co.uk)

Chairman

BLEAK HILL ROVERS -Change in Fee structure for 2017/18

Current position

Membership fees collected annually by coaches over a period from July to end of season, mainly in cash

Fee for two or more youngsters does not cover the costs incurred i.e. registration, kit, awards etc.

Although an "early bird" scheme is available, its never used

Winter training fees collected by coaches and paid out to venue without proper records

Annual fee not been increased for several years.

The outcome is that its hard to keep an accurate record of who has paid (and not paid), coaches have the worry of collecting fees rather than the training of youngsters, families have to pay fees at a time of significant expense when youngsters are going back to school etc.

Fees for 2017/18

1. The annual membership and winter training fees will be combined.
2. Payment by monthly direct debit (for 12 months from 1st May each year), by half yearly or quarterly direct debits from 1st May each year or as annual lump sum by direct debit or cheque before 1st October each year.
3. Anyone joining during period 1st May to 1st October to pay an initial "catch up" fee and then join one of other payment schemes.
4. No early bird payments (which have not been in place for a few years)
5. Any player not set up annual/half yearly/quarterly direct debit or paid in advance by 1st October will not be allowed to play.

6. In cases of hardship, parents or coaches may request support of the club by contacting the Welfare Officer.
7. Fee Structure 2017/18
 - a. Individual member £144 lump sum , £72 half yearly, £36 quarterly or £12 monthly
 - b. Second family member £120 lump sum, £60 half yearly, £30 quarterly or £10 monthly
 - c. Additional family member £84 lump sum, £42 half yearly, £24 quarterly or £7 monthly
 - d. Skills £36 membership by cheque or directly into bank payable within 4 weeks of starting and training fees paid separately as agreed with coach

Fee Table