



WHITTINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB

Founded - 1989

F.A. Charter Standard Community Club

WEBSITE : www.whittingtonfc.co.uk



Season 2008/09

WELCOME TO WHITTINGTON F.C.

Whittington F.C. is one of the largest amateur football clubs in Staffordshire and one of only 285 F.A. "Community Clubs" in the UK. We hold the F.A. Charter Standard which is the Football Association's official quality mark and this means our members can enjoy football training and matches in a well run and safe environment and under the supervision of F.A. qualified coaches at all age groups. Our volunteers are police (CRB) checked and also have First Aid and Child Protection training. Our philosophy is very different to a lot of clubs because we deliberately focus on player development and participation as opposed to just "winning at all costs". A full copy of the Club rules and development policy is available on request or via our website.

The Club currently runs teams for boys and girls from Under 8 to Under 17, adult men's and over 35's. In addition we organise a weekly Saturday Soccer Centre for 5-11 year olds and a monthly indoor session for children with disabilities and special needs. We also enjoy development links with West Bromwich Albion Academy for those players with exceptional talent.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

The Club operates on a membership basis. To qualify for membership you must complete a Club membership form and pay the required fee. A one-off fee is charged annually to cover all playing and training costs and goes towards kit & equipment, league, referee and pitch fees, trophies and insurance cover. (The fee is not refundable unless agreed by the Committee and it is not governed by the number of appearances in matches).

The Club operates on a non-profit making basis and any surplus that does arise is re-invested for the benefit of the members. Players cannot represent the Club at matches or training until they have paid their membership fee.

For season 2008/09 the fee will be **£95 payable in full by way of cash or cheque no later than 6th September 2008**. (Cheques should be payable to Whittington F.C.). Alternatively, if you find payment of the upfront fee difficult, the Club is able to offer payment by standing order. Please contact the Membership Secretary Mrs Lesley Everton (01543 252419) for further details. Any player joining the Club part way through the season is charged an upfront fee based on £10 for every month or part month of the season there is left to play. (The season runs from 1st Sept to 30th May inclusive).

LATE PAYMENT

Late payment of membership fees or outstanding fines may trigger an additional charge and players risk being suspended from playing and training by the Club and the League until any outstanding amounts are brought up to date. Under F.A. rules players are not permitted to register for any other Club or League until all outstanding fees are settled and all kit is returned. (In this respect the Club has the right to retain player registration papers and deny consent to any transfers, if necessary).

LEAGUE REGISTRATION

As well as completing the Club Membership Form, each player will also be asked to fill in separate documents to register with the respective League. Each local League has its own procedures and your team manager will explain more about what is required. You will normally be asked to supply two passport sized photos and proof of date of birth (e.g. copy birth certificate) if the player has not registered with the League before.

KIT

Each player will be supplied with a kit (shirt & shorts) in Club colours (plus an away shirt if/when required). The kit remains the property of the Club at all times and must be returned when requested. You will be asked to accept responsibility for the kit while it is in your possession and account for any loss or damage. Players are required to provide their own socks in plain black.

In addition, at the start of the season we will be handing out a free fleece top to every player who signs for the Club, which will be theirs to keep. The fleeces will be handed out once all the membership paperwork and fees have been collected and will be distributed via the team managers.

INSURANCE

The Club's policy provides Death Cover of £5,000 and Permanent Total Disablement Cover of up to £50,000 for all members whilst they are training, playing and travelling to and from organised matches. We also have Public & Civil Liability cover via our affiliation to Staffordshire F.A. The Club's insurance does not provide cover for injuries (such as broken bones) incurred during training and matches, or for loss of earnings. Players need to make their own personal arrangements if they require this type of cover.

TRANSPORT

Players are responsible for getting to matches, both home and away games, and training sessions. If you travel in another person's car, it is your responsibility to check that the person concerned has adequate car insurance and is safe to drive. It is not the Club's responsibility to transport players home or to any other location or to send a child home with another person without permission from a parent or carer. We appreciate it if players can arrive and be collected promptly. If you are going to be late picking up please inform the team manager/coach.

MIS-CONDUCT / PLAYER CAUTIONS & DISMISSALS

The Club operates a strict Code of Conduct that governs the behaviour of all our officials, managers, coaches, players, parents & spectators. You will be asked to read & sign a copy of this as part of the Club membership form. We also endeavour to apply this to all visiting teams. We view any breach of the rules as a very serious matter. All complaints are reported to the appropriate authorities and disciplinary action is taken if a Club member is involved. Anyone found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct can be fined, suspended or expelled from the Club. Any players who receive yellow and/or red cards are liable to pay a personal fine to the F.A. and may also face suspension or additional action under the Club's disciplinary procedure.

PHOTOGRAPHS & VIDEO

Unless we are specifically notified in writing by a parent/ carer that no images are to be used, then the Club policy is as follows : All images must be used to represent our Club and sport appropriately. The taking of photos or video of training sessions or matches will be restricted as much as possible but is permitted subject to the prior consent of the managers concerned. Individual players must not be named in any press articles and any parents present must be made aware that pictures/video are being taken and may be published.

ACCIDENTS, INJURIES OR ILLNESS

Completion of the Club membership form is deemed as automatic consent for members to participate in any of the games, competitions, activities, training or practice sessions the Club is involved in. In the event of any accident, injury or illness then medical attention will be given as a matter of urgency and if a child or young person is involved then best efforts will be made to contact the parents/carers as soon as possible. For the safety of the players please let us know if your contact details or any medical information changes. The Club's Child Welfare Officer in case of need is Nicola Crane Tel : 01543 300406.

PARENTAL HELP

We welcome players, parents and spectators to all training and matches and value your support. We are keen to try and involve as many adults as possible in the Club and would like to invite you to participate in the running of your team or the Club Committee. Please ask your team manager or any Club Official for further details.

ENJOY YOUR SEASON