

U11 Summer Fundraising Social

As detailed in our Annual Membership news, we've decided to arrange a fundraising Race Night for the U11 Section. The club has held many of these events over the years and they never fail to draw in much needed funds.

A race night is a great way to also bring parents together with a view to getting together and socialising. The event will be held at the Pilmeny Youth Centre, 44 Buchanan Street on Saturday 30 June from 7pm. Tickets priced £6 will include Horse, light buffet and Disco. The event will be facilitated by Sporty Race Nights Ltd and will include an MC for the evening. Tickets sales will be strictly allocated to U11 parents and friends only. It's hoped that proceeds from the event will be used for U11 leisure kit purchases. Tickets will be available for purchase in May.

Playing Kit Season 2012/2013

The club teams will be issued with new playing kit next season. The club tends to renew playing kit bi-annually, with a new club jersey being the prominent new addition, and long standing kit partners Pendle Sportswear will hopefully be the usual suppliers. The company are in the process of supplying new kit designs and we should have these for viewing by mid May. Our club colours of Red/Navy/White is our recognised, and historical preference, and the design will be chosen by the management teams in early summer with the kit ready for display by the first game of the season.

Your own personal match day jersey?

During a recent team meeting with Senior Colts players, the topic of next seasons playing jersey style was discussed. An interesting idea was put forward by a few of the players who were part of the youth set up some years ago. Back in their Youth days the youth squads liked the idea of displaying their surnames on the back of the jersey. Television and the professional game had just witnessed the players wearing names on jerseys to allow TV commentators easier identification of players. The club was receptive to the lads request, but financially it would have been impractical to finance the idea due to problems of players coming and going. If some players left, the club would be short of playing jerseys etc. The players were keen to do it however, so the club suggested that each player BOUGHT his own jersey!. The garment became the players own personal property, and if he left, he kept it! But what about new players?. Well, the club invested in additional jerseys used for trialists, and these were sold to the new signings with their personal name added. Could it be done again?. Well if any club section, want to take up this option, the club will be happy to investigate the idea. What do you think?. Could it work?. Let us know.

Coach Recruitment

The club welcomes four new additions to its Junior Coaching teams. Senior players Kris Collinson and Neil Ross have committed their valuable time to support the tremendous work undertaken at the clubs younger levels, Kris will lead the U8/9 development programme, with Neil assisting with the clubs U7s. Our coach mentoring programme has moved to the next level with U17 youth members, Fergus Ross and Tom Linton, as both lads along with Neil Ross, have been accepted to the SFA Volunteer Coach programme, having completed the stipulated 30 hours voluntary coach process. All three will undertake their SFA Diploma qualifications in the Summer. Mac Tait has also come out of "retirement" to lead the new U7 sessions.

U11s Parent & Player Information Summer 2012



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www.redpathalbion.co.uk
webmaster@redpathalbion.co.uk
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Annual Membership 2012 - 2013

In light of ever increasing overheads, such as SFA legislation changes to affiliation and Insurance cover, association fee rises and a host of other inflationary rises, we have been faced with no alternative but to increase our annual membership fee from £10 per annum to £20. It is our first membership increase since 2007. We shall as always, include a number of new training/leisure kit items for the members, to be distributed pre-season. Due to factors of "good housekeeping" and strict budget control over the seasons, we are happy to announce that training and match fees for junior sections will NOT increase in season 2012/2013. We intend to hold these fees at their current level. We will however, be planning a number of fundraising events to cover costs associated with additional kit, training and match costs, travel and coaching and member development.

Summer Saturday Coaching Sessions – U11s

Plans are in place to facilitate an additional U11 coaching session. We do however, require players and indeed parents, to commit to the additional sessions. We understand the issues relating to family time at weekends and we certainly don't wish to burden families and players with locking into a Saturday session, therefore we invite parents/players to give us an idea of the commitment they can give. The sessions are being planned with a view to working on aspects of each players game, that can't normally be facilitated on a Tuesday evening. The reasons behind the plans are explained more fully in the U11 development section. We would be pleased if you could give us an early indication of whether you would be happy to commit to the additional session. By texting Bryan or emailing the club at

webmaster@redpathalbion.co.uk

Coaching Team Development

A key element of our coach development strategy is our commitment to increasing our pathway for Junior sections. At present we only have one team participating in the soccer sevens association. The reasons for this are solely down to the lack of experienced, and indeed, committed coaches. Many years ago the club adopted a policy that we would only recruit the right people, with a sense of dedication that matched our current coaching philosophy and development targets and outcomes. As witnessed at recent U11 games we've been shocked at the number of teams with only one recognised coach in charge. The issues that can be associated with the one coach per team principle is one we will certainly never adopt. A minimum of two coaches, preferably three, is the maxim that we strive to aim for. Given this policy, and our recruitment ethos, it takes time to place coaches within the club structure. Coaching qualifications, Disclosure clearance etc all adds to the restraints of placing coaches. We are however, hoping to add three coaches from the within the clubs Senior sections over the summer months. Our youth coach mentoring system is also now in place and we already have three of our youth players, one at U7s, and two at U9/10 and U11, working towards their SFA Diplomas. All going well, we are working towards entering at least two additional sides at soccer 7s and soccer 4 levels in the near future. More detailed information will follow soon

U11 Section Development - What the future holds?

The progress made by the section over the last year has been a massive highlight for everyone associated with delivering a positive coaching message at the clubs Junior levels. Much thought went into deciding which level we thought the lads were capable of performing at in the East of Scotland Soccer Sevens Development Association (ESSSDA). The ease with which the lads coped with games at the "Beckham" level, gave coaches and parents alike, thoughts about stepping up a level, in order to offer a fresh challenge. We fully understood the thinking behind this option, but we felt that it would be wise to remain at "Beckham" level for at least the 1st phase of the this season (March to June). All going well, and if the lads development and match day progression maintains its current levels, then we will seriously consider the step up in phase two of the season (August to December). A decision will be made in June 2012.

The Second phase of the season will be a crucial period for the U11 as we will be working towards stepping into the U12 Development levels from January 2013. The club will have to look seriously at establishing a second U11 ESSSDA squad in the second phase of the season as we will have to prepare a squad of 16/18 players for the ESSSDA development stage in January 2013 where fully fledged 11 a side games will be built into our fixture programme. Merging two U11 squads may be the preferred option for the club. From March 2013 we'll be planning for the huge step into the South Eastern Region Youth Leagues at U13 with that season commencing from August 2013.

We aim to keep everyone updated on developments, and we may call a series of parent get-togethers to keep everyone fully informed.

Club website and Blog

Our ever popular website is still going strong and will be a vital information medium for all club stats and historical data. However, we're finding the club Blog is just as popular and is experiencing as many, if not more Internet hits as the website. The emergence of smartphones gives us an invaluable opportunity to relay news as it happens without the need to sit at the laptop and list the details on the website.

The Club Blog is the perfect medium for relaying information as it happens and will be used for up to the minute club news and information. Find the club Blog at <http://redpathalbionafc.blogspot.co.uk/>

Summer Coaching Project

After the success of last years Summer Coaching Camp the club is considering facilitating another 5 day coaching event. Probable dates are Monday 30 July to Friday 3 August or Monday 6 to Friday 10 August from 10am to 3pm. Dependent on coach availability, and enough players enrolling. The camp will be aimed at the U11s and will allow the coaches to deliver a five day, 25 hour programme, based on all aspects of player skill levels. We will however, be building in key elements associated with the lads future step to U12 development stages. Don't forget that fun will be the main ingredient, and we plan to make a few mystery visits, just to add to the lads fun. Pack lunches will be required. The club will also provide plenty of light refreshments and fluids to keep their strength up.

Approximate costs will be £7 per day or £30 for the full five days. The Full week amounts to about £1:20 per hour,