



HARVESTERS FC

PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE

2023/24



**ACCREDITED
CLUB** ★ ★ ★
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Oaklands Lane, Smallford, St. Albans, AL4 0HR

www.harvestersfc.co.uk

38 Oaklands Ln,
Smallford,
St Albans
AL4 0HR

Dear Parents & Carers

Whether you're new to the club or continuing your journey with us, I'd like to extend a warm welcome and I hope your child will really thrive and continue to develop their love of football with us this season.

This guide has been prepared to provide you with an overview of the club and a summary of the key information you need to be aware of.

At Harvesters FC we aim to provide a brilliant, safe and inclusive experience for everyone at the club and we're really fortunate to have some of the best grassroots facilities in the country to help enable this.

But above all, it's everyone who comes to the club who makes the experience what it is, so please come along and provide all the encouragement and support you can to the children and let's make this a season to remember!

#WeOnlyDoPositive!



Mark Kelly

Harvesters FC Chairman

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INTRODUCTION



As a charity, Harvesters FC has a purpose and a sole duty to promote the game of football and provide playing opportunities in our community for all.

Community

Set up in 1987, Harvesters was born from a passion for the grassroots game and a desire to create a safe, inclusive and enjoyable environment for children to play football – a foundation which continues to permeate everything the club does today. At the heart of this is our all-weather pitch which was built thanks to a £221,250 grant from the Premier League, The FA and the Government's Football Foundation.

The pitch was formally opened in 2003 by Lee Dixon. With hard work and dedication from club volunteers, Harvesters have built a financially sustainable model, centred around their facility, to ensure the club's future.

Since our initial grant, Harvesters have twice self-funded the replacement of our artificial surface so the local community can benefit from the highest standard of pitch.

WHY HARVESTERS?

- Over 40 teams for boys and girls - ages 6 to 18
- Over 500 members
- Weekly walking football sessions
- Private hire slots available
- Experienced and qualified coaching staff for all stages of development

FACILITIES

- 7 grass pitches
- 1 All Weather Pitch (AWP)
- Clubhouse
- Changing Rooms
- The Kiosk



Inclusion

And it's not simply about delivering top class facilities. It's the impact these facilities have. Creating safe and inclusive places where local people can engage in sport and other activities brings about more than physical health benefits; increased confidence, improved mental health and a sense of belonging are just some of the many ways our facilities transform lives and strengthen communities.

Value for Money

Your payment for the season includes all match fees/ subs, kit and training.

Mark Lindgren Memorial Fund (MLMF)

The Mark Lindgren Memorial Fund was set up in order to look to help those that are suffering under financial restrictions to be able to play football at our Harvesters Club.



Player Voice Survey Results

100%

enjoy being part of Harvesters
feel safe at Harvesters
are happy at Harvesters
feel proud to represent Harvesters

93.9%

would recommend Harvesters to their friends

81.6%

said they were given good feedback on what they do well at training

87.8%

said they were given good feedback on how to improve

87.5%

like the kit

Source: Player Voice Survey Results 2023



CLUB COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES & APPOINTED AT THE AGM

Club Chairman

Mark Kelly

Club Secretary

Samantha Jacobs

Finance Officer (Treasurer)

Andy Cooper

Vice Chairman

Andy Parker

Development Advisor

David Ede

KEY OPERATIONAL ROLES

Director of Football

Craig Budge

Club Welfare Officer

Sarah Barnard

Director of Facilities

Nick Butcher

Fixtures Secretary

Samantha Jacobs

Club Accountant

Jo Holmes

Kit Secretary

Samantha Jacobs

Football Coordinator

Aaron Jacobs

AFFILIATIONS



Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League
www.hgfpl.co.uk



CLUB SPONSORS



Professional Coaches

Our professional coaches lead the football coaching provision for our foundation teams up to the age of U13 and provide mentoring support to all the team managers at the club. Our professional coaches will have qualifications ranging between FA level 2 to UEFA B Licence.

Team Managers & Assistants

Our team managers are generally parent volunteers and all are DBS checked and have a minimum of FA level 1 coaching certification, including Health & Safety and Safeguarding. From feedback it's highly rewarding to have the opportunity to manage a team, if you're interested in managing a team, please contact the club.

Registration Process

- A New Player form will need to be completed and sent to your corresponding manager
- We will require a digital photo (passport quality) and a digital copy of passport or birth certificate for ID.
- A link will be sent to you from our club app, Pitchero (be sure to download the App!) for you to join and with payment information and details of payment options.

Systems We Use

- Pitchero (Club app)
- Whole Game System (WGS)
- FA Full Time



Training Schedule 2023-2024

Each team will have one hour long training session provided each week. We ask you to arrive at least 10 mins ahead of your session so they can begin promptly. Your team manager will advise on the time of your training session and the full schedule is available on the website, see the links. The training session will be the same for the season and you will be advised if this is likely to change ahead of next season.

Ages	Boys	Girls
Under 7	5 a-side	No matches
Under 8	5 a-side	5 a-side
Under 9	7 a-side	5 a-side
Under 10	7 a-side	7 a-side
Under 11	9 a-side	7 a-side
Under 12	9 a-side	9 a-side
Under 13	11 a-side	9 a-side
Under 14 - 18	11 a-side	11 a-side

Our Teams

Each age group can have a number of teams within the group, covering all abilities and your child will be assigned to a team accordingly, to ensure they are playing at the right level and, most importantly, enjoying their football.

Our Policies

All of our club policies can be found [here](#).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is of the highest importance at Harvesters. All our committee members, coaches and managers undertake a full DBS check and attending relevant training courses/ certification, according to their role. For more information, please click [here](#).



Fixtures

Girls matches through the Hertfordshire Girls Football Partnership League (HGFPL) is played on a Saturday morning.

Boys matches through the Watford Friendly League (WFL) and West Herts Youth League (WHYL) matches are played on a Sunday.

There will be a general rule of kick off time for each team, but subject to change in the event in unforeseen circumstances (weather, postponements, dispensation for afternoon kick off). Teams are required, in general, to arrive 30 minutes prior to kick off time for warm-up and team talk.

Communication

Most of our communications to you will be via Pitchero, for which you'll receive notifications accordingly once you've downloaded the app. You can also use the app to contact us, although in most instances, your manager would be your first point of contact.

Further information on all our club contact information can be found here.

Our Website Harvesters Football Club, St Albans (harvestersfc.co.uk)

Being On-Site

We have a strictly no dogs policy on our site. Various chemicals are used to treat and maintain the pitches and the last thing we would want is for any dog to become poorly. Other rules include

- Spectators must remain behind respect barriers at all times
- Do NOT climb on the barriers
- Always respect the match officials decisions
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive behaviour.
- Applaud effort and good play as well as success
- Remember children play for FUN
- Only players and coaches are permitted on the field of play inside the respect rails
- **NO** warming up on the pitches especially the goal area, there are warm up areas by every pitch
- Managers/coach please stay in your technical area
- All goals must be locked up after use
- Please do not sit or jump on the pitch side barriers, they are not designed to take excess weight
- Only players & managers are permitted beyond the gates of the AWP
- Appropriate footwear must be worn, **NO FLAT TRAINERS OR BLADES ALLOWED**
- Footwear must be clean - do not warm up on the grass
- All manager/coaches must stand at the side of the pitch. NOT in the middle by the net
- All goals must be put back after use



No Dogs



No Smoking or Vaping



No Spitting



No Warm Ups in Goal Areas

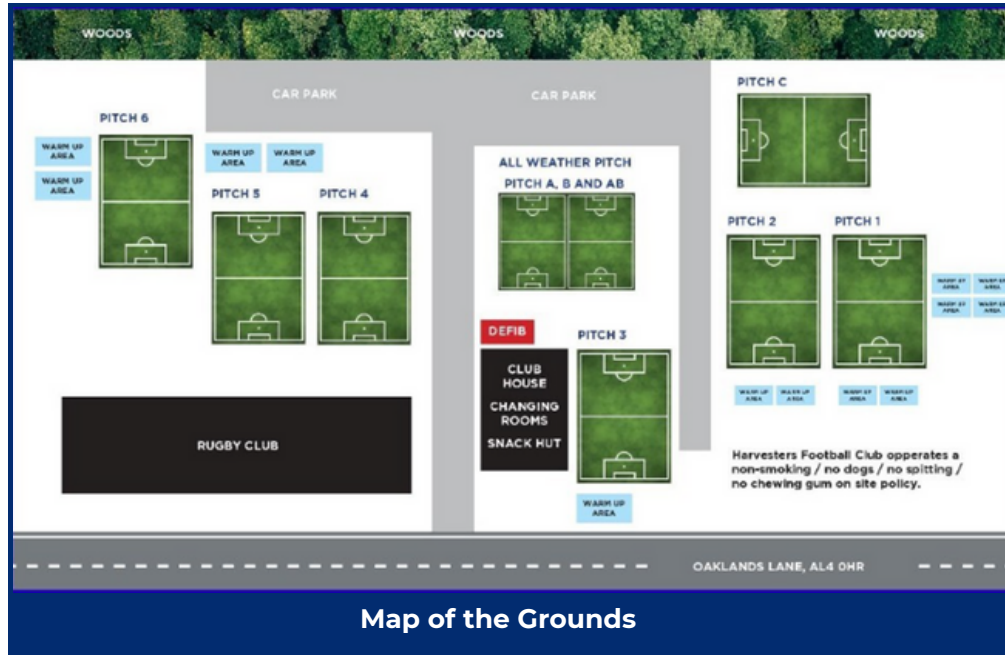
The Kiosk

We have a wonderful kiosk which is open on match days, selling hot & cold drinks, hot snacks, chocolate bars, crisps and much more!

How to Order Extra Kit

Any extra kit items, such as base layers, spare socks etc. can be purchased from the ProDirect online club shop [here](#).

Please note that all base layers must be 'Yellow' to match the team shirts.



End of Season Party

We like to all come together at the end of the season for a bit of a party, including our presentation ceremonies! With bouncy castles, BBQ, games, bar and more this is a great day out for the family!

Here's a snapshot of last year's end of season party, which was one of our most successful ever and will hopefully be even bigger and better this year!



Links

[Harvester's Site Rules and Grass Pitch Information \(harvestersfc.co.uk\)](http://harvestersfc.co.uk)

[Harvester's Site Rules and AWP Information \(harvestersfc.co.uk\)](http://harvestersfc.co.uk)

[Club Treasurer \(harvestersfc.co.uk\)](http://harvestersfc.co.uk)

[Training Slots \(harvestersfc.co.uk\)](http://harvestersfc.co.uk)



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