

SANDIACRE TOWN FC – HISTORY

Sandiacre Town Football Club was formed in 1978 by Malc Turton and Pete Smith. They had previously run the successful Ilkeston Town Under 14's, but being local men they saw the need for youth football in Sandiacre – and so the story began...

At the very first practice night over 150 youngsters turned up and it was decided to run three teams in the Notts Youth League at under 16's, 14's & 12's. Season 1979/80 saw the number of youth teams grow to five with a Saturday senior side also being established and joining the Central Alliance League as one of the founding members.

We aim to ensure that people of all ages and ability have the opportunity to play football, promote healthy lifestyles and physical activity through football, provide all age groups with competitive opportunities to play football, provide a safe and friendly environment for players, their families and the community. Our Club values are:

To be competitive but fair – We aim to be competitive in any match we play but our approach is based on the principles of fair play and sportsmanship.

Professionalism – Our managers strive to provide the best team coaching they can and in doing so will undertake to complete FA approved training courses. Inclusion –

We will ensure that members of our Club and their families are fully included in the clubs activities, football or otherwise. To aim high – We will encourage all players to set high expectations for themselves and help them work towards these goals. Show respect –

We will show respect to all players, team managers, coaches and match officials.. Team spirit –

We believe in the value of teamwork, that by working together we can play better, that no one player makes a team. Fun and flair – We will celebrate fun in every thing we do (fun is not just for winners) and our flair evolves from us being dynamic at our best and just being ourselves.

In 1982 work started on building the Club Headquarters at St. Giles Park, the cost of the project was £40,000 with half the money being raised by Club members. The building work was carried out with the help of the Manpower Services Commission and was completed in 1984, The official opening on March 28th 1984 was performed by Peter Taylor and Roy McFarland from Derby County Football Club.

Over the years many improvements have been carried out to the ground and facilities. These include posts and rails around the pitch perimeter, pitch shelters, new changing accommodation for match officials, enclosing the ground with a 2 metre fence and a covered area for 250 spectators. In 1995 floodlights were installed.

All our teams play in red shirts, navy shorts and red socks with our away kit sky blue shirt, navy shorts and sky blue socks. The number of teams has steadily grown and now the Club boasts a total of 39 teams which includes every age level from under

5's to under 19's both boys and girls as well as the our senior Saturday team and our ladies senior team on a Sunday. We also run a soccer school on Saturday mornings and a Wildcats programme on a Thursday evening.

In 2012 the club gained the Charter Standard Community Club status with the FA. The Club are affiliated to Derbyshire County Football Association who are very supportive to our club providing excellent advice on available grant funding, coaching courses and coach CPD.

Sandiacre Town Clubhouse is also home to the Erewash Valley Running Club. This club boast a large membership and meet at the Clubhouse on a Wednesday night.

Sandiacre Town are very proud of their links with other clubs, in the early eighties exchange visits took place with the Hurlford Boy's club of Kilmarnock. Then in 1984 the Club started an association with Sparta '25 of Holland which still exists today. Exchange visits take place in alternate years involving four of the youth teams. The annual event between Sandiacre Town & Sparta 25 started way back in 1984 when John Millington organised a trip for some Sandiacre teams to go to the Netherlands and play some matches against Dutch teams.

Since 1986, the exchange tour happens every year with 50-60 boys making the trip to Sandiacre or to Sparta 25 in Beek en Donk. Over the years there's been over 1800 boys who have been involved in the exchange with many friendships being made with a lot still keeping in touch today.

Although both Sandiacre Town & Sparta 25 are football teams, football takes second place. During the visit the main purpose is for both clubs to have an enjoyable time, seeing old friends and making new ones, hopefully to keep this great friendship going for many more years.