



The Buzz...

Harborough
Town FC
July 2020

Welcome to the July edition of **The Buzz** which contains our regular updates and community pieces, as well as an insight into the hard work that our Covid-19 taskforce have undertaken to get us back enjoying football again! It has been such a positive development in these uncertain times, and hopefully we are on the upward curve and this is one match we will definitely win.

I must add that the members of Harborough Town FC are indebted to Sport England in providing a grant of £2,000 towards the resources required to make the club Covid-19 compliant. This will ensure the safety and wellbeing of our members during the tests of the new approach to coaching and a return to football, under the Government and The FA Guidance. The grant has allowed the works to be carried out immediately, and has enabled the club to open its playing facilities and provide a safe football experience that fully meets the government policy on social distancing and the safety of everyone. Thank you Sport England!

LAURENCE JONES

CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES – HARBOROUGH TOWN COMMUNITY TRUST

I am sure that we are all eager to return to football and thanks to Maz, Simon and Tomas Mikenas for working through and leading on how we can return to football in a safe manner, and its with excitement to see the club be in a position to resume on Independence Day – 4th July. Thank you to all the players and coaches who have been trialling the return and showing patience whilst temperature checks are taken. A stark reminder of why we need these precautions and checks is seen just down the road in Leicester and I am sure all our thoughts and wishes are with family, friends and residents of Leicester, who are within the lockdown zone.

For many of you I know you are keen to hear of the approach we will be taking with regards to next seasons youth fees. For the last two seasons (18/19 and 19/20) we have maintained the fees at the same level, despite increasing costs. The trustees are also acutely aware that football finished in mid-March, a number of weeks ahead of the normal end of season. It is welcomed then to return to football this coming weekend, at a time that would ordinarily be the closed season and for each teams coaching staff to decide on when they will recommence.

It may have been expected after two seasons without any fee increase that this coming season may have seen these revised, however the board of trustees have decided that there will be **no** increase in player fees this coming season across the various formats – some of you may see an increase however where the player moves to a different format, for example the age group moves from 7v7 to 9v9.

As a club we are working towards a full return to grassroots youth matches during September at some point and subject to FA guidance. Teams are being registered with the leagues and player registration to the FA league system needs to be completed shortly given deadlines set and the number of players we have at the club.

Player fee/ subscriptions will begin to be sent out from the beginning of August so please do look out for the email, which will provide all details including payment methods, as well as asking you to update the personal records on the club system.

The trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support throughout the closure of the club, which as you will see has seen investment made in the facilities as well as preparation for the start of the season ahead for the benefit of all our teams.

Stay safe and well.

Best Wishes,

IVOR MCTIGHE
YOUTH CHAIRMAN



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"Different but Welcoming – was how the first few weeks of the current FA guidelines have developed our return to the club" says Maz Hayton, who led a team to bring us back playing football at Harborough Town. Below, Maz gives us an insight into her experiences during the month of June – we're sure a month she'll not forget in a hurry!

The 'different but welcoming' message has been the overwhelming feedback given by coaches and players of all age groups who have tested the new approach to coaching players. I prefer the term: The Covid-19 Approach to Coaching. Myself, Simon and Tomas headed the HTFC taskforce tasked with implementing a return to football programme, so we started by planning the club site itself, to understand how we would implement the Government and FA Guidelines particularly concerning social distancing, taking temperatures and supplying anti-bac products. We established a plan for both the 4G and 3G pitch areas that included setting up necessary information banners, boards and posters, as well as creating one-way systems and the temperature checking stations for coaches and players, whilst parents will remain outside of the playing areas. We have also prepared and supplied coaches with their own anti-bac packs for when they're needed during the new approach to training sessions. Thanks indeed must go to Sport England who kindly provided a grant to enable our club to purchase gloves, face masks, paper towels, anti-bac liquids, sanitisation gel products, and very importantly guidance literature to display at our site.

As part of the planning phase we created and had approved, a Covid-19 risk assessment, and we would like to thank the club's trustees who gave their time to approve these plans. We must also thank Mrs Buffey, wife of one of coaches and mother to two of our players who also guided us through the risk assessment process. Mrs Buffey is a virologist by profession so was able to help ensure the club had captured all relevant areas to make the environment safe for players, coaches and club officials in returning to training.

Next we had to re-engage with our coaches on the plans and initiatives that we needed them to demonstrate and be able to convey to the players they work with. We held virtual meetings, shared documentation, and offered coaches the opportunity to trial and test their sessions. All are to be commended on their positive approach enabling us to return to football action – it makes me so proud! After so many telephone calls we headed into the first weekend of test training with our first team and u13 academy teams. Andy Evans, coach of the u13s, commented *"Today was a great success with regards to meeting the social distancing and no contact guidelines, however quite limiting to what we can do but lads put effort in and made it work, well done. Thank you to the club."* It was acknowledged and agreed we needed to continue to support our coaches with their sessions, but that a great start had set the tone for these last few weeks where we have welcomed more and more teams back to test the arrangements.

Over the 2-week trial period we have had test training sessions conducted by 14 teams of various age groups, all using the 2m social distancing and no contact rules. The club recognises that every age group works differently and has its own needs, but we are extremely encouraged and pleased with the progress made.

Our next aim is to review, plan and conduct a trial for re-commencing a café service, and whilst we cannot yet welcome guests into the clubhouse, we have a number of plans for providing a collection service or mobile retail point. I feel an app would be ideal, but maybe that's a step too far! The club has made a decision to keep the playing facilities open for those teams who wish to train over the summer. This is to enable coaches and players who are not going away, the opportunity to rebuild, get fit and enjoy one of the things they missed in over 4 months. Welcome back everyone! Stay Safe ☺

I want to finish this article to highlight two items, as well as saying that just like football, to get the club this far has truly been a team effort – Thank you to all whom have contributed. **#UpTheBees**

- 🐝 The HTFC and Fiesta Sports Coaching football camp starts in mid-July (*please see advert on the last page*)
- 🐝 The club wishes to welcome a team of U16s, coaches and parents from Corby as part of the club for the coming season. Previously known as Corby Warriors U16s, the team led by manager, Jenna Murray, felt that having the correct structure, development player pathway and the facilities at Harborough Town FC, would give its players the opportunity to meet their highest potential of senior football. Jenna said *'Everyone of these players can reach their goal, and Harborough Town FC can provide this for all the players'*. The new U16s will form part of the Elite Strand, known as the Academy and will be playing in the Midland Junior Premier League. A very warm welcome to HTFC.

MARION HAYTON
CLUB DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL EXECUTIVE. HTFC ACADEMY LEAD COACH.





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"Great to see the players smiling faces, and they loved being with their teammates again." **U9 ROVERS**

"I was initially reluctant to return to training, but after the coaches' training session and thoroughly planning our session, we gained in confidence to test the new normal. The activities we planned gave the players the chance to re-bond with each other, but also had the flexibility to extend into another activity fairly seamlessly which was key to keeping their attention. It was important to highlight the club's guidelines to the player's parents leading up to the session, which also gave us the confidence to deliver on the training day itself as we reinforced the key messaging." **U8 RANGERS**

"We improvised a little from a passing drill on to a shooting drill using the same cone arrangements. It was definitely different but still fun, and the players listened carefully and responded very well. We know the kids just want to play football at times, so it can be hard to explain they have to do contactless drills for now, but still a good session." **U10 ROYALS**

"Clearly observed the one-way system, followed signage and they thoroughly enjoyed returning to football." **U8 RANGERS**

"Epic news – The Hornets return to play with a closed session for 3 groups of players. Staying strictly within our groups of 6 and staying 2m from each other for warm-up and drills. 1 person handles balls and cones. Thanks @HarbTownFC for making this possible". **HTFC HORNETS**

"A different, but welcome training session, the feedback from the parents has been great & Glen D created a fab session following all the guidelines. Staff & the club have done a great job in incredibly difficult circumstances. We face huge challenges, but they will be overcome. Full squad in training, kids not really there for the football but for each other & they loved it. Social corner 🟢". **U11 94s**

"Lads did well this evening – Proud of them! Thanks to the staff and club for sorting. Brilliant job in setting that system up, and it worked really well 🟢🟢". **U12 94s**

"I totally agree that the club, especially Simon had the arrivals organised very well. I must praise the boys for keeping to the rules and for working hard. My thanks to Tim and Matt for helping to make the session fun and run smoothly, and also Maz and Simon". **U11 94s**

"Great organisation tonight Maz. Great to be back. Looking forward to getting back into the swing again. The Vets enjoyed our session back tonight". **THE VETS**

The club is into the 3rd week of return to football using the Covid-19 approach. Every team has the opportunity to return to train as per their usual training slot from Saturday 4 July. For further information please contact the team's coaches.

The trustees and staff at the club will continue to monitor the practices and give guidance using the Government and The FA Guidance throughout the pandemic. **#NewApproach**





@HarbTownFC were given a bye in the first round of the Hopper & Son Invitational Cup that is taking place *virtually* on twitter – Our second round match was again well supported, however we lost narrowly 3-2 to **@MedlockLadies**. Thank you to those supporters who voted via twitter. Keep an eye on that tournament and other non-league and community items at [WWW.TWITTER.COM/HARBOWNFC](https://www.twitter.com/HARBOWNFC)



Children at All Saints Primary School in Lubenham have planted a silver birch outside their school as a lasting tribute to the way they and neighbouring schools have battled through the coronavirus pandemic. The tree was a gift from Husbands Bosworth C of E School as pupils from there and other local schools were cared for by teachers and support staff at All Saints. [HARBOROUGHFM.CO.UK](https://harboroughfm.co.uk)

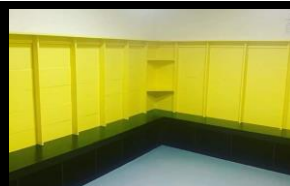
Hollywood is coming to Market Harborough! Local tours and events company, Fleckney Group, are hosting a drive-in cinema experience at the showground in late August – iconic films such as Toy Story, Jurassic Park and the Shawshank Redemption are due to be shown – and you simply watch from the comfort of your own car, just don't forget the popcorn! Tickets and further information available at [EVENTS.FLECKNEYGROUP.CO.UK](https://events.fleckneygroup.co.uk)



Continuing the success of a virtual Harborough Carnival this year, it has been confirmed that the Great Bowden MusicFest will also be broadcast due to the current government social distancing measures. Local bands will feature and be broadcast on the worldwide web. Whilst the YouTube broadcast is free, listeners are asked to make donations: [GREATBOWDENMUSICFEST](https://greatbowdenmusicfest.co.uk)



Our first team changing rooms, corridors and tunnel areas have been given a new lease of life thanks to two local companies. CM Carpentry took care of transforming the changing rooms to include floor storage boxes and individual player sections, whilst Classic Decorators gave it some colour as well as the freshening up the corridor and tunnel areas. *Great Job by both – Much appreciated!* CLASSICDECORATORS@OUTLOOK.COM AND [CMCARPENTRY @OUTLOOK.COM](https://cmcarpentry.co.uk)



Coaches Corner

'Great to be back' was the overwhelming message that came from the coaches who haven't been at the club since we closed in mid-March. The HTFC coaches-only training session ran on 22nd June to encourage, highlight and provide the reassurance that we can get back to training in this current pandemic. Over 25 club coaches attended the COVID-19 football practical workshop, delivered by one of the junior coaches, John Mulholland. The group was split into pods of 6 on arrival. Ideas from coaches were shared to help those who needed clarification on how to deliver sessions using social distancing and no contact. Coaches were given the opportunity to join a coach mentoring group where they will continue to learn and develop as coaches.

The club also wish to thank Glen Deathridge, Lee Stevens and Andy Evans for an insight to their sessions.

Everyone went away with ideas and a new found confidence to approach and deliver their sessions when they start back from the 4th July. *Well done to everyone!*

Please also check out the various courses available online and excellent training video libraries that there are.

[WWW.THEFFA.COM/LEARNING/COACHING](https://www.theffa.com/learning/coaching)
[WWW.THEFFA.COM/LEARNING/COURSES](https://www.theffa.com/learning/courses)



This newsletter is to keep us in touch with you, our most valued asset – players, coaches, volunteers, supporters – but we need your help.

?..... What would you like to see in The Buzz

Please let us know about any positive stories you have seen, what your teams doing, how are you supporting your family and neighbours, absolutely anything and everything.

Contact Marion Hayton: MAZ.HAYTON@HARBOROUGHOWNFC.ORG





FIESTA SPORTS COACHING & HTFC
are running a



POP UP FOOTBALL CAMP @ HARBOROUGH TOWN FC



Centres

Harborough Town Football Club
10am to 3pm

Harborough Town Community Football
Ground, Northampton Road, Market
Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9HF

Outdoors Sessions held on grass or 3G
Astro.



Safety (COVID-19)

Outdoors, Skills Based sessions on grass

Social distancing strictly enforced (no
matches)

No sharing of equipment (balls)

Equipment wiped down and sanitised
between sessions

Only one parent per child if possible

Hand sanitisers and temperature checks

Cost

£18 per child per day

10% discount if booked before 3rd July 2020.
5% Discount for booking 3+ days
Additional 10% Sibling discount

BOOK ONLINE
www.fiestasportscoaching.co.uk

What we Offer

Ages 5 to 11 years old, Girls and Boys

Movement Fundamentals

Soccer Aerobics

Speed and Agility with/ without the ball

FA Qualified, DBS checked coaches

Programme and delivery led by UEFA B
coach **John Mulholland**



Dates/ Times

10am to 3pm each day
Bring packed lunch, water bottle,
rain jacket

Week 1

Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July



BOOK ONLINE: WWW.FIESTASPORTSCOACHING.CO.UK

07733 156764/ 07800 806132 info@fiestasportscoaching.co.uk



Recruiting New Players For Season 2020-21

The club is looking for additional players to join us as we prepare for next season.

We have spaces in all the following age groups:

**U11s, U12s, U13s,
U14s, U15s, U16s,
U17s, & U18s**

U15 Girls
(must be 13 or 14 years old
by the 31st August 2020)

Wildcats Girls
Development Centre
(Girls from 6-10 years old)

Once we return to training, we will provide each player with 2 free sessions.
Please send your expression of interest: Maz.Hayton@HarboroughTownFC.org



Enthusiastic FA qualified coaches
A safe family friendly environment where players can develop
Social events
Excellent facilities



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