



The Buzz...

Harborough
Town FC
August 2020

Welcome to the August edition of The Buzz which contains our regular updates and community pieces, as well as an update from our senior section as they kick off their friendlies before a season start in September, and from our youth section which highlights a united front from the Leicestershire leagues our teams are playing in. *Oh, and did I mention HTFC has been on TV...?*

LAURENCE JONES
CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES – HARBOROUGH TOWN COMMUNITY TRUST

SENIORS UPDATE

Now that we have received further guidelines from the FA and the Government around the return to football, including start dates for the new season in the National League System (which covers steps 1 to 6), we can finally start to prepare for friendlies and the start of the league season scheduled for 5th September 2020.

The club, I think we can all agree, has been fantastic in their approach to Covid-19 and the systems in place are superb and better than most at our level of football. A massive well done to Tomas Mikenas, Maz, Simon and all the staff at the club. You have done and are doing, a great job, keep it up!

With everything in such good shape around the club and all the necessary precautions and tests taking place, it leaves the managers and coaches time to concentrate on what they need to do, which is preparing their respective teams for the season opener. This year, with the delays we have all experienced, the league season commences on Saturday 5th September, but the actual opening game of the season will be on Tuesday 1st September when the first team will travel to Wellingborough Whitworth FC in the extra preliminary round of the Emirates FA Cup. Later in September the first team will host Barrow Town in the FA Vase competition.

With the plans all now in place we move onto pre-season and with the First and Reserve teams retaining the majority of their squads and adding 3 or 4 where needed to strengthen, both teams have returned to pre-season training where they will undoubtedly be dreading the tough 5 week schedule of fitness and games 3 times a week. We are still awaiting on the final list of friendlies scheduled for the Reserves, but the First team are underway, as below:

Saturday 8 August	County Hall FC	Won 4-1	Milne, Wakefield 2, Forbes
Tuesday 11 August	Melton Town	Lost 2-0	
Saturday 15 August	Coventry Sphinx	Won 5-1	Forbes, Hardy, Mooney, Williams, Milne
Saturday 22 August	Barwell	Home	<i>*changed to 12:30</i>
Tuesday 25 August	Aylestone Park	Away	7:45 pm
Saturday 29 August	Daventry Town	Home	3 pm

Enjoy the rest of your summer and most importantly stay safe and well. We look forward to welcoming you back to a Harborough Town match in the not too distant future!

PETER DOUGAN, CHAIRMAN – HTFC SENIOR FOOTBALL

!! STOP PRESS !!

FA guidelines have been issued permitting up to 150 spectators to attend the above friendly matches, and up to 300 spectators will be permitted from 31st August. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages for details!



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Harborough Town FC Community Cohesion Project will be looking for your support when it is launched over the coming weeks. With remote learning still forming a part of daily life, we wish to support those less fortunate in our community by providing used and refurbished laptops and mobile devices, so that come the start of the new school year everyone is given a level playing field in the most important arena – Education! Keep an eye on our media channels for further details.

We wish to applaud seven-year-old HTFC player Harry Lister who has raised over £620 for the Jubilee Foodbank during lockdown, by cycling 100 miles! Further details of Harry's impressive feat can be found at [HARBOROUGHMAIL](#) or why not visit Harry's [JUSTGIVING](#) page..

YOUTH UPDATE

The Sunday Youth Leagues felt it was really important that discussions took place across all leagues to form a consistent approach and they will be looking to carry on that approach in the coming weeks wherever possible. There is no doubt going forward that communication between all will be key to a successful restart and continuation of football. On the following page is a copy of their joint statement, which we believe is a very welcome and suitable approach to these unprecedented times:

The club has the following youth age groups playing in Sunday Juniors/Youth Leagues. Most of our Sunday youth teams will be effected by the delayed start to the opening games of the season. The Midland Junior Premier League (Saturday League) is still scheduled to commence on the 12th September. The Leicestershire Youth Midweek Floodlit League is still to confirm the start date of the season.

Harborough Town FC are competing in the following leagues:

- * Leicester & District Mutual Football League: U7s - U10s (mixed gender teams)
- * Leicestershire Sunday Foxes Football League: U11s - U12s (boys)
- * Leicester & District Sunday Juniors Football League: U13s - U15s (boys)
- * Leicestershire Youth League: U16s - U18s (boys)
- * Leicestershire Youth Midweek Floodlit League: U18s only (boys)
- * Leicestershire Women and Girls Football League: U8s - Open Age Women (girls only teams)
- * Leicestershire Youth Futsal League (Saturday indoor futsal)
- * Leicestershire & Rutland Inclusive Football league: Provides football for individuals with differing impairments, playing together.

Of course, all plans are dependent upon lockdown being lifted and clubs being in a position to satisfactorily prepare for the start of the season both from a playing perspective but also facilities and everything Covid-19 related.

!! Player Registration !! Urgent reminder to parents who are yet to provide a digital photo and proof of ID for your child. Thank you in advance.

MARION HAYTON

CLUB DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL EXECUTIVE. HTFC ACADEMY LEAD COACH.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Just your average Sunday morning relaxing with the papers, cup of coffee and a piece of toast, Harborough Town on the television... Hang On, say that again? Yes our club was featured on BBC Breakfast on Sunday 19 July after Mike Bushell from BBC Sport visited us the week prior. Keen to understand how grassroots and amateur sport is re-starting from the lockdown the presenter and his film crew arrived to interview some of our coaches, players, Laurence and not forgetting a very telegenic Maz – All gave excellent performances in front of the cameras, although less should be said about Mike Bushell's finishing [VIMEO.COM/HTFC](https://vimeo.com/HTFC)

A JOINT STATEMENT FOR SUNDAY YOUTH FOOTBALL IN LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND:

You will be aware of the recent Government statement regarding the restarting of competitive grassroots football and the subsequent advice and guidelines issued by the Football Association.

The Leicester District Mutual League, Leicestershire Foxes Sunday League, Leicestershire Women & Girls Football League, Leicester & District Sunday Juniors League, and the Leicestershire Youth League have met and can confirm we have taken the decision to commence our league seasons on Sunday 20th September.

We felt it was important to provide a definitive timeline to you as soon as possible and this of course is dependent upon the lockdown in Leicester / Oadby & Wigston being lifted within a reasonable time period. The slight delay in restarting is to allow all clubs in our leagues to be in a position to evenly prepare for the season ahead no matter where they are located.

Following feedback received from a number of clubs, it is also apparent that there are also still quite a few potential issues and uncertainty about availability of some facilities that need addressing, as well as clubs being able to internally prepare with the required adherence to guidelines.

As leagues we are totally aware of the need to work with all clubs and to make our approach as consistent as possible – hence this joint statement. Please continue to feedback any issues that may affect all or indeed single leagues.

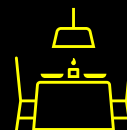
We are all currently working on league affiliation to the FA and getting our Fulltime sites up and running. It will be our intention to publish initial fixtures by Sunday 16th August and for you to feedback and discuss with us any issues with those fixtures relating to such things as ground shares/capacity and kick off times by the end of August.

As with the original lockdown, this is an unprecedented situation & we would collectively like to thank all clubs for your understanding. It is really important there is good communication and an open approach to dialogue between us all going forward with us all working together.





Support Harborough Town FC sponsors by taking advantage of the UK government's Eat Out To Help Out scheme. Avatar, Vivo, The Oat Hill, Babe Blooz, Stag at Maidwell are participating in the scheme which gives a 50% discount on food or non-alcoholic drinks to eat-in or drink-in (up to a maximum of £10 discount per diner) every Monday to Wednesday between 3rd and 31st August. Full details at: WWW.GOV.UK



Two Men. Two Hand-Built Wooden Canoes. Two Hundred Kilometres.

During lockdown, friends Tim Peacock and Ian Shipley decided to build their own canoes and are now raising money for Cancer Research UK by canoeing from London to North Kilworth! They will set off on 1st September and hope to complete their challenge in eleven days, and you can follow their exploits via social media, and to donate:

[FACEBOOK/KILWORTHCANOE200](https://www.facebook.com/kilworthcanoe200) [JUSTGIVING/KILWORTHCANOE200](https://www.justgiving.com/kilworthcanoe200)

As we previously reported, Hollywood is coming to Market Harborough! The drive-in cinema experience will take place at the Market Harborough Showground from 21-23 August showing iconic films such as Toy Story, Jurassic Park and Grease, watched from the comfort of your own car. Full details and ticket information available at EVENTS.FLECKNEYGROUP.CO.UK



The world's most valuable 7" 45rpm Motown single has been bought by a man from Market Harborough. The northern soul song, *Do I Love You* by Frank Wilson, is now definitely going to be added to the Harborough Town FC match-day playlist!

More details: HARBOROUGHFM.CO.UK



One of the many football matches that has been lost to the pandemic was the England C team match versus the Nepal national team that was due to take place back in May. The team at local Nepalese and Asian fusion restaurant Avatar, were due to attend, however it was with great surprise that Laurence Jones could still handover this beautifully handcrafted Nepalese ANFA art piece recently. Please look out for the handcrafted wooden plaque next time you visit! [FACEBOOK/AVATARDINING](https://www.facebook.com/avatardining)



Fabulous news for bookworms in our local area – as Market Harborough, Lutterworth and Broughton Astley libraries have re-opened after being closed for four months! As is becoming the new normal, you will have to pre-book an appointment. For opening days and times please visit LEICESTERSHIRELIBRARIES for more information.

Coaches Corner

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

WWW.THEFA.COM/LEARNING/COACHING

WWW.THEFA.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, absolutely anything and everything.

Contact Marion Hayton and Simon Stevens:

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