

Larkhall Athletic Under 15s for season 09-10

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY & RESPOND

Dear U15 players and their parents-carers,

Because of increasing work and other commitments, it has become necessary for me to severely reduce my voluntary coaching with Larkhall Athletic and to step down from most of my official roles at the club, including that of Co-chairman.

I have also decided that, after investing a great deal of time throughout the past six years towards developing the club and establishing several new teams at various ages, I owe it to my family and other interests to spend more time and energy on them.

I will therefore not be coaching the under 15s boys any more on a regular basis.

I have been very pleased to work with the boys who will be next season's under 15s and to see the number of players coming to training steadily grow to the point where we now have enough players to form a good squad of players to play in the Bath and Midsomer Norton League next season. As I have already told the players, we have a place in the MSN League.

The under 15s are also very lucky that James Dixon and Daniele Quagnietta have agreed to volunteer their time to coach the boys during the week. Lots of work has therefore already been done to get things ready so that the boys can play regular League football (i.e. on most or all Sunday afternoons from early September).

HOWEVER for it to be possible for the team to proceed as planned, it is necessary for the parents-carers of the under 15s (as for all other age groups at the club) to also step forward and volunteer some of their time to fulfil the roles needed in order that their children can play football.

I was grateful to the four or five parents-carers who attended the meeting called several weeks ago to discuss the various roles which need filling, but we now need to urgently finalise arrangements for next season. The volunteer roles include: acting as Treasurer (to seek, receipt and bank membership subscriptions, pay bills, etc), fixtures secretary (confirming arrangements for fixtures with other teams) and, crucially, managing or organising the under 15 team on the day of their matches. The team needs one or more parent-carer to volunteer to take on this last role, as James and Daniele will rarely, if ever, be available to attend matches.

James, Daniele, myself and, I am sure, all the boys who have attended training, are very keen that the under 15 team can play football next season as planned – especially after the considerable effort which has already been expended by people to recruit and coach the players to date.

HOWEVER, I need to emphasise that, unless parents-carers do urgently agree to commit to taking on these roles for the forthcoming season, it will be necessary to withdraw the under 15s from the League next season, which will mean that the boys will not be able to play in weekend matches, which is what most or all of them really want to do. Therefore, if you are prepared to take on (or share) one of the above roles

(further details of which will be available to those volunteering) please get in touch with me by this coming Wednesday, 26 August (tony@day1426.freeserve.co.uk or 07833133031).

If, by Wednesday, 26 August, no or insufficient under 15 parents-carers volunteer to help run their boys' team, then I will have no option but to ask the MSN League Secretary to withdraw the under 15s from the League, which is NOT an outcome that any of us wants I am sure.

Training: this will restart this week or next (probably on 31 August), assuming that it is practical to move forward with the team. Arrangements for this will be confirmed ASAP separately, probably by text message.

Kit: once again, assuming that it is practical to move forward with the team, kit can be purchased from John Moores' Stitch and Print shop in Monmouth Street in Bath. Following a decision by the club management committee that it is not affordable for the club to continue with a kit voucher scheme used in past seasons, parents-carers now have to pay the full cost of their children's kit (which is about £30 for shirt, shorts and socks). However, pending confirmation of whether or not it will be possible for the boys to take up their place in the MSN League, I would suggest that you do not yet purchase kit if you have not already done so.

Membership subscriptions: assuming that it does prove possible to continue with the under 15s, full payment of membership subscriptions will be due at the end of August (membership applications were handed out to players at training several weeks ago) – thank you to those of you who have paid their deposits. Should it not prove possible to continue with the under 15s, then the club will repay those membership monies already received for season 09-10.

The start of matches: I think that the MSN League fixture list starts on 13 September – I very much hope that the under 15s will be able to take their place in the League then, as we have the makings of a team with lots of potential I think.

Mobile phone numbers: if those parents-carers I have been sending text messages to on their land lines have mobile phone numbers, could they please text me their mobile number on 07833133031.

Best wishes,

Tony

Tony Day