



WEEKLEY ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB  
Est 1995

WELCOME PACK

## A welcome from the Chairman

On behalf of all the volunteers, coaches and players of Weekley Rovers FC, I would like to offer you a warm welcome to our club and this first ever edition of our Welcome Pack.

This club exists to make sure that children are introduced to grass-roots football in a well-organised and safe way. Our motto is “Football for All” and we want to ensure that every child that joins us enjoys playing football and develops their skills to be the best player they can possibly be. It is our aim to make Weekley Rovers the best team for young people in the Kettering area, and as part of this aim we intend to achieve the Football Association Charter Standard award in 2010.

As a parent or guardian of a child at Weekley Rovers we need your support to help us achieve our aim. Whether by bringing your children to training and supporting them at games, helping out at training sessions and with team administration or even by becoming a team coach your involvement is important.

This handbook sets out everything that we think you need to know about the club and how it is organised, please take time to read it and if you have any queries, comments or suggestions let us know.

Rob Parkes  
Chairman

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## **1. - Club History**

Weekley Rovers Football Club was established in 1995. The club was initially set up by two men – Andy Coulson and Dean Darker. Dean's son was keen on playing football, but there were no opportunities available at other local clubs. So, together Andy and Dean set about creating a club for any boy or girl who wanted to play football, irrespective of their ability. The club adopted the motto of 'Football for All', and a team was formed so that Dean's son could play football. Friends of Dean's also joined the club and the first Weekley Rovers U10 team played in the Weetabix League. Unlike today, the U10 side played 11 a side football and also played in Black and White, the original colour's of Weekley Rovers, a far cry from the well known Purple and Black worn proudly by all of today's players.

In order to grow the club Andy and Dean embarked on an advertising campaign, both on local KCBC radio and in the local Evening Newspaper. More and more boys turned up to training, which took place at the Glebe Playing fields, and two years later a second team was set up. Gradually the club has grown in strength year on year and by the 2004/5 season we had players as young as 7 who were playing in the Weetabix League.

Today Weekley Rovers currently have 17 teams playing in the Weetabix League, ranging in age from U7's to U16's. The U7's and U8's play under the rules of 'Fair Play', which is non-competitive, the U9's and U10's play competitive mini soccer (7 a side) and the U11's to U16's play 11 a side football.

All our team managers are FA Level 1 and above coaching qualified and are FA CRB checked.

The club would not be such a success without the help of many volunteers, team managers and club officials who all give their time freely.

Today, Weekley Rovers still prides itself on the motto 'Football for All'. Weekley Rovers FC is currently working towards becoming a Charter Standard Club.

## **2. - Club Officials**

Chairman	-	Rob Parkes	rob@weekley-rovers.co.uk
Treasurer	-	Clive Thorley	clive@weekley-rovers.co.uk
Secretary (U11 to U16)	-	Kate Fairbairn	kate@weekley-rovers.co.uk
Secretary (U6 to U10)	-	Jane Elsey	jane@weekley-rovers.co.uk
Child Welfare Officer	-	Andy Bowen	andy@weekley-rovers.co.uk

### **3. - Annual General Meeting**

Each year we hold our Annual General Meeting, which is usually held in June. All parents are encouraged to attend, and all contributions are well received.

Each year the committee stands down and re-elections take place. All future events are discussed and new ideas welcomed for fund raising etc.

We are always looking for parents to get involved and what better way than to join the Weekley Rovers FC committee.

### **4. - Training**

All players are expected to attend weekly training sessions. The sessions normally last no more than an hour, and are based around school term time.

During the Autumn and Summer months training is normally outdoors, but in the Winter and Spring months training will either be indoors or on a floodlit Astro turf pitch.

Each manager sets his own training fees, this mainly depends on training location charges, and the training equipment purchased.

### **5. - Matches**

Weekley Rovers FC play in the Weetabix League. Matches for the age groups Under 7 and Under 8 are Fair Play matches which are non-competitive.

The Under 9 and Under 10 team age groups then become competitive and scores are published by the Weetabix League and a league table is produced.

During the months following the end of the season, teams will have the chance to participate in tournaments and friendlies arranged by the teams manager.

The under 5 and 6 age groups are not permitted to play in Tournaments as per Football Association guidelines, but will have the opportunity to play in friendly matches after the end of the football season.

### **6. - Registration Fees**

The current registration fees for 2009 are £16 for new registration, £13 for re-signing and £6 for siblings, and this has not been increased for a few years. The fee includes monies to be paid to the Weetabix League and public liability insurance for our club.

The registration fees are reviewed each year and then agreed at the A.G.M. The under 5 and 6 age groups are exempt from registration fees as teams do not become part of the Weetabix League until they reach the Under 7 age group.

## **7. - Football Kits**

From the under 7 age group upwards, players are required to wear team football strips. The strip has to be in the clubs colours of Purple/Black. Team kits are replaced every 2 years. The football kit will include shirt, shorts and socks. Tracksuits can also be purchased by the teams but this increases the overall cost. Parents may need to make a contribution towards the kit if sponsorship monies do not cover the full cost.

The design of the football kit is the managers choice, and though may seem expensive the quality has to be of a high durable standard, and will last at least 2 years.

Shin pads and football boots must be supplied by parents and are not the responsibility of the club.

**Shin pads must be worn by all players in training and during match play.**

## **8. - Health and Safety**

Plenty of Drinks. It is important that during training and matches that the player has plenty of fluids – especially in the warmer weather.

Sun cream and hat. Sun cream should always be worn during the hot summer weather and a hat used to protect the player from the sun.

Suitable footwear and shin pads must be worn during matches and training.

No earrings, watches, jewellery etc.

It is part of the Referee's role to inspect footwear, shin guards and jewellery before each and every match. Any player not removing jewellery (including necklaces, rings, bracelets, leather bands and earrings) will not be allowed onto the field of play.

## **9. - Sponsorship**

Any form of sponsorship is greatly appreciated by our teams. Often sponsorships come from companies where the players' parents are either employed or own. It is a great way to advertise as Weekley Rovers is a well respected football club in Northamptonshire and is recognised by everyone for its famous Purple/Black strip.

## **10. - Opportunities**

The club is always looking to encourage parents to be part of the club. Parent helpers are vital to the success of the Club. Any parent wishing to become a coach/manager will be supported by the clubs committee. FA Level 1 coaching is a minimum requirement and this is funded by the club. You will require to be FA CRB checked, which again will be funded by the club.

## **11. - Presentation Evening**

Every year at the end of the football season we hold our annual presentation evening. Last seasons venue was the Lighthouse Theatre. Our presentation evening is a fantastic event where parents and players can socialise and celebrate the clubs success.

All players are included and every child receives a training trophy for the hard work that they have put in during the season. For the age groups that play in the league there are individual awards up for grabs such as Players Player, Clubman, Managers Player, Top Goal scorer etc.

## **12. - Weekley Rovers FC Tournament**

Our Tournament just gets better year after year. This year 2009 over 130 teams played over the course of the weekend . We have teams participate from both Northamptonshire, the surrounding counties, and as far away as Liverpool. We also had girls football teams participating for the first time this year.

The Tournament is a weekend of great fun, great football, good sportsmanship and the fair play of everybody taking part.

Age groups Under 7 and Under 8 take part in the 'Fair Play' tournament, which is non-competitive and all players from every team entered will receive a Tournament medal or trophy as a gesture for taking part.

Under 9 age groups and upwards play competitive football. Points are awarded for each game and the teams with the most points will progress on to the quarter finals, semi-finals and then the final. The runners-up and winners of each age group all receive a trophy for their success.

Our Tournament is sanctioned by the Football Association each year.

## **13. - Fund Raising**

Each year we hold fund raising events such as penalty shoot out competition's and parents v managers football matches.

This year the parents and managers game was held at Kettering Town FC's ground on Rockingham Road. Over 40 parents and managers participated in the event.

## **14. - Fair Play**

Fair Play is considered one of the most important elements in the game of Football. It is included as a major rule in F.I.F.A.'s own code of conduct.

To Play Fair is to play with grace and dignity, it is to promote the more encouraging points to the supporters and to the younger generations so that the game is turned around into a more socially enjoyable experience.

Fair Play always has its reward, even when the game is lost. Playing fair earns you respect, while cheats are detested. Remember: it's only a game. And games are pointless unless played fairly".

It is better to lose playing fairly than to win by cheating.

Fair Play Rules for Coaches, Parents and Players

Special Fair play codes have been made for junior soccer teams. These include rules for children, parents and coaches:

### **Rules for Fair Play For Players**

I will participate because I want to, not because my parents or coaches want me to.

I will always play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.

I will never argue with an official. When a call is disputed, I'll let the team captain or coach handle it.

I will respect my opponents.

I will control my temper and not be a show off.

I will show appreciation for good play/performance, those of my team and of my opponents.

I will do my best to be a true team player.

I will remember that winning isn't everything, that having fun, improving skills, making friends

and doing my best are as important

### **Fair Play Codes for Parents**

I will not force my child to participate in sports.

I will remember that my child plays sports for his/her own enjoyment, not mine.

I will encourage my child to play by the rules, and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.

I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning.

I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.

I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good play/performances by both teams.

I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time and provide sport activities for my child.

I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning.

## **Fair Play Codes for Coaches**

The coach must act with integrity in performing all duties owed to the athletes and the sport.

The coach must strive to be well prepared and current in order that all duties in the coaches discipline are fulfilled with competence.

The coach must act in the athlete's development as a whole person.

The coach must accept the letter and the spirit of the rules governing the sport.

The coach must accept the role of officials in providing judgement to ensure that competitions are conducted fairly and according to the established rules.

The Coaches conduct toward other coaches must be characterised by courtesy, good faith and respect.

The coach must maintain the highest standards of personal conduct and support the principles of Fair Play.

The extensive lists of codes of conduct for parents, players and coaches alike shows how much the youth teams try to create a respectful fair environment by all means, involving everyone.

## **15. - Our Code of Conduct**

### **For Players**

It is important that everyone behaves themselves when playing football. As a player you have a big part to play. All players need to follow and agree to the FA's Respect Code of Conduct.

Always do my best, even if we are losing or the other team is stronger.

Play fairly – I will not cheat, complain or waste time.

Never be rude to my team-mates, the referee, the other team, spectators or my coach/manager.

Always do what the referee tells me.

Shake hands with the referee and the other team at the end of a game.

Listen to my coach/team manager and respect what he says.

Talk to someone I trust, for example my parents or the Club Welfare Officer, if I am unhappy about anything at my club.

I understand that if I do not follow the code, action may be taken.

### **For Parents**

We all have a responsibility to promote high standard of behaviour in the game. Play your part and observe the FA's Respect Code of Conduct for spectators and parents at all times.

I will:-

Remain outside the field of play and behind the designated spectators' area (where provided).

Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.

Always respect the match officials decisions.

Applaud effort and good play as well as success.

Remember that the children play for FUN.

Let the coaches do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do.

Encourage the players to respect the opposition and match officials.  
Never criticise a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning.  
Not smoke at pitch side whilst the game is in progress.  
Ensure that permission is received from both teams before taking any photographs or video.

I understand that breaches of the code may result in action being taken by my Club and/or the County FA and/or the FA.

### **For Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials**

Club representatives have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. The FA's Respect campaign is aimed at tackling unacceptable behaviour across the whole game.

On and off the field I will:-

- Show respect to others involved in the game, including match officials, opposition managers, coaches, officials and spectators.
- Adhere to the Laws of the Game.
- Display and promote high standards of behaviour.
- Always respect the match officials' decisions.
- Never enter the field of play without the referee's permission.
- Never engage in public criticism of the match officials.
- Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour.
- Not smoke at pitch side whilst the game is in progress.

When working with players I will:-

- Place the well-being, safety and enjoyment of each player above everything, including winning.
- Explain exactly what I expect from the players and what they can expect from me.
- Ensure the parents/carers of players under 18 understand these expectations.
- Refrain from, and refuse to tolerate, any form of bullying.
- Develop mutual trust and respect with every player to build their self esteem.
- Encourage each player to accept responsibility for their own performance.
- Ensure all activities I organise are appropriate for the players ability, level, experience and age.
- Co-operate fully with others in football (e.g. officials, welfare officers etc.) for each players best interest.

I understand that breaches of the code may result in action being taken by my own Club and/or my County FA and/or the FA

## **16. - Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures**

In the event that any member of the club feels that they have suffered discrimination, or that the Club Rules or Code of Conduct have been broken they should report the matter in the first instance to the appropriate team Manager if possible, otherwise the complaint should be reported to the Club Secretary in writing (e-mails accepted).

The report should include the following information:-

Details of what, when and where the occurrence took place.

Any witness statements and names.

Names of any others who have been treated in a similar way.

Details of any former complaints made above the incident, date, when and to whom made.

A preference for a solution to the incident.

The Club's management committee will sit for any hearings that are requested.

disciplinary procedure

In the event of a complaint being brought to the attention of the Clubs Management Committee, the Club has the discretion to hold a Disciplinary hearing.

In this event, the person(s) accused of breaking the Club Rules or Code of Conduct will be asked to attend a hearing. The Committee will give notice of at least one week before the hearing is to take place. A copy of the written complaint will be provided. The person accused has the option of providing their own written statement for the Committee to consider in advance of the hearing. This statement will be provided at least three days prior to the hearing and a copy of this will also be provided to the person who raised the complaint.

All parties will be allowed to call persons who have witnessed the said complaint. All details of witnesses must be provided to the Club Secretary at least three days prior to the hearing.

Only the complainant, the accused, witnesses and members of the committee will be allowed to contribute to the hearing.

For the purposes of the hearing the Club Committee shall consist of no less than 3 persons.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Club's management committee will have the power to:-

Warn as to future conduct.

Suspend from membership for a period of up to 3 months.

Expel from membership any person found to have broken the Club's Policies and/or Code of Conduct.

Right of Appeal

The right of appeal against a decision made by the Club's management committee will be awarded only if new evidence or witnesses are brought forward regarding the case. In such instances this new evidence must be put before the committee for their attention in order to ascertain the grounds for a new Committee hearing.





**Weetabix Kettering & District  
Youth Football League**

**ZERO TOLERANCE**



## **INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE & REFEREE ABUSE**

**The League acknowledges that every child, young person or adult who plays or participates in football, should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment, and be protected from poor practice and abuse.**

**The League will not tolerate inappropriate language or threatening behaviour used on match sidelines, particularly verbal or physical abuse directed at Match Officials.**

**Match Officials are just as entitled to enjoy the match as players and spectators.**

**The League reserve the right to ask anyone demonstrating actions deemed to conflict with Club policy to move away from the match sidelines.**

**Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.**