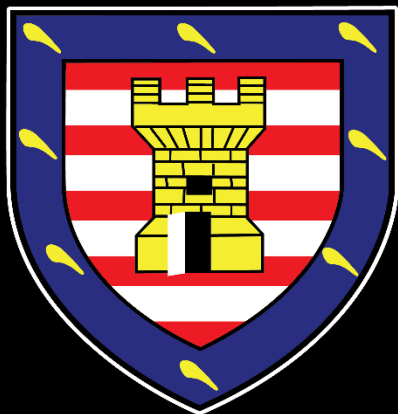




# **CLUB HANDBOOK SEASON 2025/26**



**MORPETH TOWN  
JUNIORS F.C.**





# CONTENTS

Welcome

All about MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS

All about OUR FOOTBALL

All about THE JUNIORS AND MORPETH TOWN AFC

Additional Information





# WELCOME



*"Welcome to the 2025/26 edition of Morpeth Town Juniors digital handbook – something we like to circulate to all the club's members and parents.*

*Last season, the club started using Morpeth Common as its home ground for most of its grass-based teams and whilst we had some challenges (molehills for one!), the general feedback from our teams and opposition was we had a 'great set-up'. With five pitches in operation, it was lovely to see so much of the club playing together and really enhancing the club feeling and identity. The aim is to improve the Common facility and pitches via the Football Foundation pitch improvement grant, which the club is receiving in reducing tranches over a 6-year period and we are due to receive our second tranche very soon.*

*Located next to Craik Park – the home ground of our older teams and women's team, it meant we had over 20 teams regularly playing in the single location. The general matchday offering was further enhanced by the opening of the 'Far-Post Kitchen' at the end of October, providing hot and cold drinks, chocolate bars and other sweets and the much-appreciated bacon and sausage sandwiches. This has proved a great success for the club, not only from a financial aspect, but again, improving the overall experience for our players, coaches, parents and those of visiting teams.*

*This coming season will be my 22<sup>nd</sup> and last at the club, most of which has been in the role of chairman, secretary or treasurer and coaching roles throughout. It has come a long way over that time and we've overseen the merger of Morpeth's two junior teams, the ever-increasing role of female football at the club as well as the developed relationship and connection with Morpeth Town AFC, to name but a few. It's time for me to hand on the baton to others (my wife retires in 2026 and we want to spend time travelling), so my reason for leaving is purely personal. In addition, the club is losing the services of long-standing committee members Ted Cromar (Secretary), Kevin O'Connor (Treasurer) and Sean Douglas (Lead Child Welfare Officer), all for differing reasons. My thanks go to them for their many years of service to the club, but like me, none of them have children or grandchildren at the club anymore and there is a need to bring fresh energy, ideas and impetus to the table.*

*With the loss of these people, the club is losing a great deal of experience. A fair criticism of the way the club is run is that the bulk of the responsibilities has lain with too few people. It's like running a small business and there is a lot of unseen work undertaken to ensure the club runs smoothly. We need to take this opportunity to broaden the range of experience and to ensure a more equitable split of responsibilities going forward. As it stands, 10 months after giving long-term notice, the club still doesn't have a replacement club secretary and **that is a mandatory role for the club to continue let alone grow.** We need more help and I would urge people who can contribute to come forward and play a part in developing the club over future years. As Morpeth itself grows, so will the club, so please, if you can help, get in touch (07799 836384 / [chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk))."*

*Paul*





# ALL ABOUT .....MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS



In this section

- Our Identity / Our Ethos
- Club Structure
- Club Development
- Club Governance
- Club Membership & Finances
- MTJ Digital





# OUR IDENTITY / OUR ETHOS

***“A football club’s identity reflects everything for which it stands and showcases – who it is and how it behaves on and off the pitch. The club’s visual identity – it’s badge, colours etc – should convey this identity.”***

*The club’s identity is everything the club stands for. As well as physical and tangible things such as club colours, it includes :*

- *Its vision and values.*
- *The club ethos as represented by players, coaches, volunteers and spectators in terms of creating the right standards and culture on and off the pitch.*
- *The way we coach and play.*

This is taken from the club’s development plan and we define our visions, missions, ethos and how we seek to coach and play in that accompanying document, but our overall objective is as follows :

**“Morpeth Town Juniors to be a distinct, respected and community focussed club run for the benefit of its members.”**

This underpins the way we operate and the decisions we make, at the same time seeking to set standards in grassroots football. Players, Coaches, Volunteers, Parents and Spectators all play a part in defining the club’s identity and maintaining those very standards.



**MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS F.C.**

***“Our Coaching Ethos – The way we coach”***

INFORMATION FOR COACHES AND PARENTS







# CLUB GOVERNANCE

***“Governance is all the systems, policies and procedures the club employs to frame the way the club is run all the time.”***

This is an all-encompassing phrase, but our governance dictates everything from how we manage our financial decisions to broad guidance into the practicalities of running a squad.

However, there are certain areas which are of greater importance in terms of meeting our expectations and our stated goal of being a **‘standard bearer for grass roots youth football’**.

These are our :

- Codes of Conduct and Policies
- Safeguarding & Welfare
- Parental and Spectator Values

## Codes of Conduct and Policies

We adhere to and endorse the various FA Codes of Conduct and Policies that are listed on our website

[www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk/documents](http://www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk/documents).

There are codes that cover players, coaches and spectators, but we need to be mindful of the content of these codes so that we’re not blindly highlighting them without understanding and more important acknowledging and following them.

They must be our guiding principles when it comes to how we operate.

## Safeguarding

It is our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child or young

person at the club and it is inherent upon us to provide a safe environment for all members. Our safeguarding policy is on our website and EVERY coach involved at the club MUST have a current ‘FA Safeguarding Children qualification’. There will be occasions when the welfare of a child is raised – be it from the club’s perspective or via the actions of persons not connected with the club - and we are obliged to investigate these matters. Our welfare team actions this and if anyone has any queries regarding welfare or safeguarding issues, Sean and the team can be contacted via email at [welfare@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](mailto:welfare@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk).

## Parental and Spectator Values

Sadly, the number of reported incidents involving parents and spectators at grassroots youth football nationally, is rising significantly. Our local junior league is no exception and as a club, we need to remind parents and spectators of their obligations.

Football at all age levels can prompt emotions and it is important that we all remain POSITIVE in our approach to our children and coaches and to the opposition’s players and coaches. Likewise to referees and other officials.

**The club places great store on the discipline and behaviour of all involved with the club, be they players, coaches, volunteers or parents / spectators. Coaches are reminded of their responsibilities and it is vital that parents and other spectators respect and observe the expected standards.**

Win or lose, the most important thing is that your child enjoys their footballing experience and is playing in a supportive environment, rather than a hostile, aggressive and pressuring matchday environment.





# CLUB STRUCTURE

Morpeth Town Juniors FC is an unincorporated association which means it is run by a group of individuals that is bound by the club's constitution.

## CLUB COMMITTEE

The club is run by a committee of volunteers as detailed opposite. Ideally, there is a need to recruit more volunteers towards the management of the club and this is something that is becoming critical with key members of the club leaving.

In addition, there are numerous 'non-committee' roles that require filling. Small roles, so not time consuming, but nevertheless, contribute to the smooth running of the club,

We are very grateful for all the help, but if anyone else is interested in help shape the club's future, please contact the club secretary Ted Cromar on

[secretary@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](mailto:secretary@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk) or chairman Paul Barwick on [chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk).

## CLUB COMMITTEE – ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

**CLUB CHAIRMAN**  
**CO-CHAIRMAN**  
**CLUB SECRETARY**

PAUL BARWICK  
CHRIS BROWN  
TED CROMAR (pending a  
successor – to be appointed)

**CLUB TREASURER**  
**CLUB WELFARE OFFICER**  
**CLUB WELFARE OFFICER**

MATT PICTON  
ANGELA DAVINSON  
SAM MILLS (pending a  
Successor – to be appointed)

**CLUB WELFARE OFFICER**  
**CLUB WELFARE OFFICER**  
**KIT OFFICER**  
**PITCH MAINTENANCE TEAM**  
**PITCH & FIXTURE**

To be appointed  
To be appointed  
NICKY DUTTA  
Led by SHAUN JOHNSON

**ALLOCATION**  
**FACILITIES & GOVERNANCE**  
**ADVICE**  
**FEMALE FOOTBALL OFFICER**  
**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**  
**DIGITAL MEDIA OFFICER**  
**MINIS & WILDCATS**

CHRIS OAKTON

HELEN BEALES  
JAMES CALLAGHAN  
KIRSTY MOUNTNEY  
MEL BENSON  
PAUL BARWICK (pending a  
successor – to be appointed)

**CLUB EVENTS OFFICER**  
**MARKETING &**  
**COMMUNICATION**

KIM TYLER  
  
To be appointed





# CLUB MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

The club's membership fees are set at its AGM at the end of May and the club proposed and it was agreed that the fees for the 2025/26 season remained unchanged.

The club strives to keep the membership costs at an affordable level, whilst ensuring it meets its commitments over a financial year. Our membership fees remain one of the cheapest among peer clubs.

However, if anyone has difficulty in paying membership fees, please contact a member of the club's welfare team or their coach for more advice.

## WHAT YOU GET

- At least 1 hour's training each week (weather permitting)
- Club's bespoke Errea playing kit (Shirt, Shorts and Socks)
- Club rain-jacket (renewed every 2 years)
- End of season participation trophy (up to and including U10s) and / or nominated trophy awards (all age groups)
- Access to goalkeeper training via Jim Provett.
- End of season 6-a-side fun day on Craik Park
- Season Tickets for Morpeth Town AFC and discounts on senior club events
- Playing time in line with the number of games each team has over a season

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP FEE
Full Playing Membership	£235.00 (if paid in full) 9 x £28.34 via monthly instalments
Full Training Only or Sibling Membership	£165.00 (if paid in full) 9 x £20.34 via monthly instalments
Morpeth Minis & Morpeth Wildcats Membership	£60.00





# MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS FC ACCOUNTS 2024/25

## Accounts

### INCOME

MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS	£111,739.67
EVENT INCOME	£1,659.00
DONATIONS	£253.09
SPONSORSHIP	£7,720.10
KITCHEN SALES	£4,874.69
GRANTS	£57,870.00
	<u>£184,116.55</u>

SURPLUS FOR 2024	<u>£5,658.68</u>
LESS RESTRICTED FUNDS (GRANTS RECEIVED PENDING EXPENDITURE)	<u>£8,478.00</u>
	<u>-£2,819.32</u>

Accumulated Funds B/F FROM 2023	<u>£20,158.87</u>
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	<u>£17,339.55</u>
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Represented by	
BALANCE OF CURRENT ACCOUNT	£16,172.05
BALANCE OF NO 2 A/C	£9,605.50
LESS GRANTS PENDING EXPENDITURE (NO 2 A/C)	£8,478.00
PETTY CASH	£40.00
	<u>£17,339.55</u>
	<u>£17,339.55</u>

### EXPENDITURE

CLUB SPORTSWEAR	£22,108.62
CLUB EQUIPMENT (BALLS, CONES, ETC)	£5,635.16
PITCHES & TRAINING HIRE	£35,404.80
REFEREES	£4,894.50
FINES	£662.75
COUNTY & LEAGUE FEES	£9,958.00
DBS FEES	£550.00
EXTERNAL COACHING FEES	£908.00
COACHES COURSE FEES	£3,140.00
EVENT COSTS	£3,803.49
INSURANCE	£1,948.58
TROPHIES	£2,241.73
IT EXPENSES	£4,400.77
TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES	£405.00
CHARITABLE DONATIONS	£210.00
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	£58,901.82
COMMON / PITCH MAINTENANCE COSTS	£16,705.54
SUNDRY EXPENSES	£1,126.02
CRAIK PARK KITCHEN COSTS (SET UP & STOCK PURCHASES)	£2,793.09
SEASON TICKETS TO MORPETH TOWN FC	£2,660.00
	<u>£178,457.87</u>

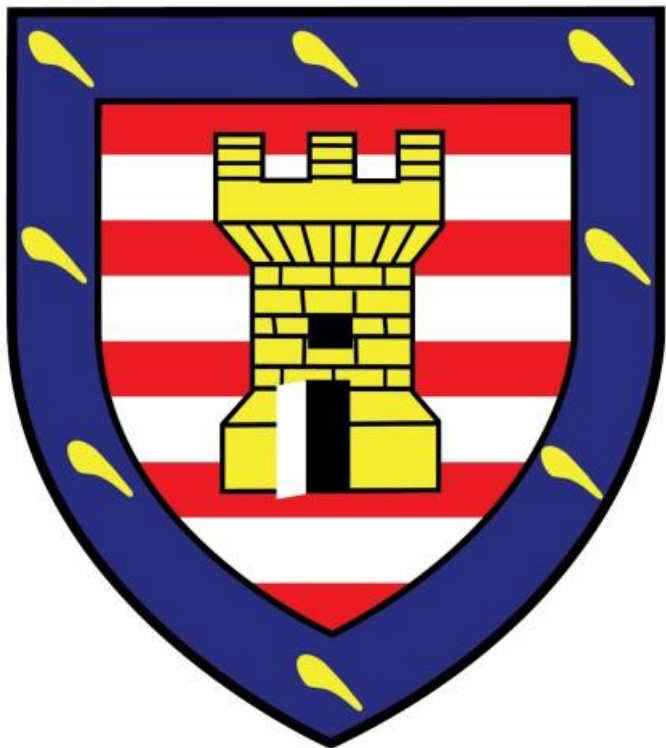
### Notes to 2024/25 Accounts :

1. The club made a loss of £2,819 on turnover of £184,000.
2. The loss was attributable to the club's contribution to the purchase of a tractor and equipment for use on Morpeth Common as well as some one-off costs associated with the set up of Morpeth Common and the Far-Post kitchen.
3. The club turnover was boosted in this financial year due to grant receipts, largely for Common maintenance, goalpost and tractor purchase .





# CLUB DEVELOPMENT



## MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS CLUB DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2028

In 2023, the club signed off a 5-year development plan and it accompanies this handbook.

This is a very aspirational plan, but it is essentially a business plan for the club to help it get from where it was to where we want it to be in 2028, in line with its vision and values. It has involved much self-analysis in line with the FA's England Accredited Scheme (we are a 3-star England Accredited club), identifying the issues and opportunities the club has. It recognises that the club is growing, much like the town itself, and what we need to do manage that growth whilst ensuring that we keep our vision and specific objectives in mind.

### Club Vision and Missions

*"Morpeth Town Juniors to be a distinct, respected and community focussed club run for the benefit of its members."*

- Seek to provide football opportunities for all ages and abilities (playing and / or participation).
- Be recognised as an integral part of the Morpeth residential and commercial community.
- Help members maximise potential on and off the field.
- To run the club with the interests and wellbeing of the members a priority.
- To make being a member an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for the children and their families.
- To be recognised as a standard bearer for grassroots youth football.

It's a working document and forms part of the agenda at every committee meeting. It is anticipated an extensive review of the plan will be undertaken during the 2025/26 season, not only to assess the club's progress in meeting its objectives, but to consider the ongoing relevance of its existing objectives and to update in line with the club's current situation.

It's the members' club and the plan is built around its members.





# MTJ DIGITAL – our online presence

The club's digital presence is still not where we need it, but it's fair to say, progress has been made in the last 12 months.

The club took the decision to come off 'X/Twitter' and now has just a Facebook and Instagram page in addition to the website. We're trying to align our online presence with the senior club's, as we seek to promote each other's activity.

There's still work to be done in this area, but a general lack of committee expertise and proactive involvement means we need to work harder. Mel Benson has been appointed to oversee this area, so we hope to progress things in the coming months.



**MorpethTownJuniors**



**morpethtownjnrs**

[HOME](#) [CONTACT US](#) [TEAMS](#) [OUR LOCATIONS](#) [CLUB KIT & TRAINING WEAR](#) [SPONSORS](#) [DOCUMENTS](#) [MORPETH TOWN FC](#)

THE OFFICIAL HOME OF



MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS



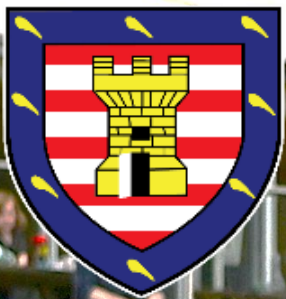
GET IN TOUCH

## Get social - follow us online

If you don't already, please follow us on social media - we're on Facebook and Instagram - like, comment, share and help spread the word about MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS.

[www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](http://www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk) – we're considering changes to our website – so it could look very different this season!





# ALL ABOUT .... OUR FOOTBALL



In this section

- Our Playing & Training Venues
- Our Club Coaching
- Morpeth Wildcats
- Foundation Phase
- Our Pathway to Adult Football
- Our Club and the Football Foundation
- Morpeth Minis
- Girls & Women's Football
- Youth & Professional Development Phases





# OUR PLAYING & TRAINING VENUES



**CRAIK PARK** – Our older teams that play 11v11 on a full-size pitch play their home games at Morpeth Town's ground at Craik Park. A state of the art, 3G surface installed in 2021, it represents one of the best junior home pitches in the area.

**CHANTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL** – Here we have a youth sized 11v11 pitch used by our U14s this season.

**MORPETH COMMON** – Used by the clubs teams between the ages of U10s and U14s whilst also available as an overflow to Craik Park for our U15s and older..

Our younger boys and girls' teams play at various **CENTRAL VENUES** including Cochrane Park in Heaton, Goals in Gosforth (next to racecourse) and Bullocksteads.

**CRAIK PARK** – Most of the club's teams use Craik Park's floodlights for winter training.

**CHANTRY MUGA** – Another recently opened, floodlit facility that the club has access to. The venue provides a 45 x 30 sq metre 3G surface and can be hired as a single full pitch or split into two smaller areas.

**CHANTRY TRAINING SHED** – An indoor training venue that the club has used for a number of years.

**MORPETH COMMON** – The Common is used by teams outside of winter training times.

**CHANTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL** – The Minis and Wildcats (pre-team age groups) can be found there on Sunday mornings.







# OUR PLAYING & TRAINING VENUES – MORPETH COMMON

Morpeth Common is going to be central to the club's future. For many years, the club has led a nomadic existence playing at various pitches in and around Morpeth. This has been functional, but has led to a very fragmented club with the annual fun day being the only opportunity to bring it together as a whole. With the opening of the 3G pitch at Craik Park, the club has sought to restore Morpeth Common back to what it was around 30 years ago, when there were numerous full-sized pitches there.

Via extended communications involving the club, Northumberland County Council, Northumberland FA and the Football Foundation, we have agreed a long-term licence for use at the site. The club undertook major renovation work to the Common in September 2023 and in September 2024, started using the pitches on site for the majority of our home and away teams. It will also see ongoing maintenance and improvement via 6 years' worth of support from the Football Foundation, both in terms of renovation work such as aeration, fertilising and overseeding and helping the club part finance the purchase of a tractor, mower and machinery. This will allow the club to proactively manage the pitches with the aim of improving their quality year on year.

Given its location next to Craik Park, it has given the club a 'home', where most of our teams can play and train, where we can utilise better the facilities of Morpeth Town AFC and Craik Park whilst creating a better club environment. In addition to better quality pitches which the club can manage, the senior club can benefit with increased footfall in and around their facilities thereby cementing the relationship between the Juniors and Morpeth Town AFC. A very important development for the club.





# OUR CLUB AND THE FOOTBALL FOUNDATION (and others)



This last 24 months has seen the club embark on a number of initiatives, many of which we would not have been able to undertake without the support of external funding / grant bodies – **primarily the Football Foundation**. The club has worked with the Foundation to ensure a series of projects have come together or are in progress to benefit the club and its members – such as the Common project mentioned above.

Whilst the club had to commit funding of around £38k over the last year, grants from the Football Foundation were received as follows :

- £56,950 towards the initial improvement works undertaken at Morpeth Common in September 2023.
- £66,560 (payable over a 6-year period) from the Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund towards ongoing improvement and maintenance of the grass pitches at the Common.
- £28,350 towards the purchase of a tractor, mower and quadraplay allowing the club to proactively manage and maintain the Common when required.
- £11,880 towards the purchase of the new goalposts and nets for both the Common and Craik Park

Aside from this funding, the club has also secured a grant of £1,000 from the **Barclays Sported Fund** towards the provision of a disability offering which its planning in the final quarter of this year.

And finally, via the **Howdens Game Changer Programme**, a partnership between **Howdens and England Football**, the club was able to secure a new kitchen for the proposed 'Far Post' kitchen container at the South-East corner of Craik Park.

A great deal of time and effort has been spent both securing these grants and implementing the work required to maximise the benefit of this funding and this work will continue in the coming years to ensure the club and its members fully benefit.

The club's thanks goes to all parties involved in helping these things come to fruition.





# OUR CLUB COACHING

With 42 squads for the upcoming 2025/26 season, it can be difficult to present a consistent coaching style or philosophy, but in line with our club development plan we are aiming to do this. Our coaching needs to ensure the children are having FUN and get enjoyment from playing the game. It needs to be player-focused with the aim of developing a child's footballing skills in an environment where they can learn football without the pressure to win – especially at the younger age groups.

We align our coaching with the FA's England DNA, its four-cornered model and apply it in line with the relevant age phases of development. The FA four-cornered model encompasses four key attributes that are vital for any developing young footballer: **Physical, Technical, Psychological** and **Social** elements, helping children to develop more than just their football skills – ***Helping them to gain confidence, build self-esteem, learn to work as a team and improve their decision making.***

Each team at the club aims to have a minimum of one hour's coaching per week (weather and coach availability permitting) and in addition to all coaches being DBS approved, every team must have at least one coach holding the FA's Introduction to Coaching Football qualification. That qualification can be supplemented by locally delivered coach the coach sessions run by Northumberland FA.. Underpinning all this is the club's guide detailing 'our coaching ethos – the way we coach'. This document provides guidance and information for parents and coaches with the aim of promoting a consistent approach to coaching club-wide.

The club endeavours to be player focused and does not develop a win at all costs mentality. It doesn't discourage winning – far from it – but age-appropriate player development and enjoyment are key objectives for the club and should form the basis of our coaching.







# MORPETH MINIS

**MORPETH MINIS** is the club's ever popular sessions for boys in the pre-team age groups (mainly Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, although some slightly younger attend in the summer before they start school).

It is run every Sunday morning at Chantry Middle School with sessions at 9.00 – 10.00 and 10.00 – 11.00. It is available for any child to attend, whatever their ability.

The emphasis of MORPETH MINIS is for the children to have fun whilst learning the basic motor and football skills. For those that want to, there are opportunities to join the club's U7 teams which is the youngest age group where organised games are played.

MORPETH MINIS is run by club chairman Paul Barwick (a fully qualified coach) along with DBS checked volunteers and the focus is to develop the following aspects of a child's ability :

- Ball introduction
- Small-sided games – more touches for everyone
- Ball manipulation / mastery
- Skill development
- Social and confidence development
- Motor skills

For more information or interest in Morpeth Minis, please contact [chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk).







# MORPETH WILDCATS

**MORPETH WILDCATS** mirrors MORPETH MINIS by providing pre-team football opportunities for girls in School Years Reception, 1 and 2,

In the past, some girls used to attend Morpeth Minis, but often found it a little intimidating playing with mostly boys. Wildcats provides the ideal opportunity for girls to come along and enjoy sessions whilst accommodating an increasing demand for girls' football.

It is run every Sunday morning at Chantry Middle School (11.00 – 12.00) and is available for any girl to attend, whatever their ability.

The emphasis of MORPETH WILDCATS is for the girls to have fun whilst learning the basic motor and football skills. For those that want to, there are opportunities to join the club's U7s or U8s teams which is the youngest age group where organised girls' games are played.

MORPETH WILDCATS is run by club chairman Paul Barwick (a fully qualified coach) along with DBS checked volunteers and the focus is develop the following aspects of a child's ability :

- Ball introduction
- Small-sided games – more touches for everyone
- Ball manipulation / mastery
- Skill development
- Social and confidence development
- Motor skills

For more information or interest in Morpeth Minis, please contact [chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](mailto:chairman@morpethtownjuniors.co.uk).







# GIRLS' & WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



## OUR GIRLS' & WOMEN SQUADS

TEAM	MATCHDAY VENUE
U7	CENTRAL VENUE
U8 DOLPHINS	CENTRAL VENUE
U9 TIGERS	CENTRAL VENUE
U10 MERMAIDS	CENTRAL VENUE
U11 CHEETAHS	CENTRAL VENUE
U11 WARRIORS	CENTRAL VENUE
U13 LIGHTNING	MORPETH COMMON
U14 TOPCATS	MORPETH COMMON
U15 JAGUARS	MORPETH COMMON / CRAIK PARK
U17 LIONESSES	MORPETH COMMON / CRAIK PARK
ADULT TEAM	MATCHDAY VENUE
MORPETH TOWN WOMEN	CRAIK PARK
WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION	N/A

An increasingly important part of the club with a quarter of the club's squads now being female teams which also follow the FA Phases of Development.

Games are played on Saturday mornings apart from the Women's team that play on Sundays.

2025/26 will see two new developments for the club. As the demand for female football has never been stronger and the club needs to meet this demand, we're pleased to launch the club's first ever U7 team (progressing from Morpeth Wildcats) and see the appointment of James Callaghan as the club's 'Female Football' Officer. James has a lot of experience coaching female teams at Morpeth and is someone who can drive the female agenda whilst keeping within the ethos of the club.

The club has now developed a clear pathway to the senior team with four of last season's U16 squad progressing to playing in the adult game, whilst the women's participation group is seeing increased growth under the coaching of Keith Garlick. All very positive.





# WOMEN'S FIRST TEAM

It seems only right to acknowledge the achievements of our women's team that was launched at the start of the 2023/24 season. Having gained promotion at during their very first season, the team more than consolidated when playing in the women's premier league. Indeed, they topped the table at the halfway stage, only for a series of long-term injuries to hamper their progress leading to an eventual third place finish. However, the positive for the season was the introduction of players from our U16 squad who all gained valuable experience and indeed, the season culminated with a fantastic league cup final victory over league winners Berwick, with four players aged 17 or younger on the pitch at the end of the game. Here are some images from that fantastic victory.



**League Cup Final**  
Morpeth Town 2  
(Davidson, Gilmore)  
Berwick Rangers 1





# FOUNDATION PHASE



## OUR FOUNDATION PHASE SQUADS

TEAM	MATCHDAY VENUE
U7 HORNETS	CENTRAL VENUE
U7 PANTHERS	CENTRAL VENUE
U7 THUNDER	CENTRAL VENUE
U8 COBRAS	CENTRAL VENUE
U8 MARVELS	CENTRAL VENUE
U8 LIGHTNING	CENTRAL VENUE
U9 PRIME	CENTRAL VENUE
U9 RANGERS	CENTRAL VENUE
U9 TITANS	CENTRAL VENUE
U10 TORNADOES	MORPETH COMMON
U10 RAPTORS	MORPETH COMMON
U10 PHOENIX	MORPETH COMMON
U10 THUNDER	MORPETH COMMON
U11 WASPS	MORPETH COMMON
U11 HORNETS	MORPETH COMMON
U11 THUNDER	MORPETH COMMON

The FA Foundation Phase is covered largely by 'Mini Soccer' which is the introduction to organised football for young players.

**The emphasis at this age group HAS to be on the children enjoying their first taste of football and honing their skills.** No results or league tables are published as the FA believes that the focus should be on individual skill development as opposed to winning. The club follows this ethos as children develop at different speeds and ages and it seeks to promote equal playing time and positional rotation.





## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE

The FA Youth Development Phase covers the U12 to U16 age range.

The emphasis changes a little with an increased focus on performance and less positional rotation. Whilst the club still seeks to adhere to its general ethos, as children get older, the natural tendency to be more competitive is reflected in how the teams start to operate.

Individual player development and opportunity remains a priority and it's certainly not a case of 'win at all costs', but increased tactical and positional awareness will lend itself to a more competitive outlook and coaching decisions and strategies will reflect this.

### OUR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PHASE SQUADS

TEAM	MATCHDAY VENUE
U12 BADGERS	MORPETH COMMON
U12 GLADIATORS	MORPETH COMMON
U12 TIGERS	MORPETH COMMON
U13 PANTHERS	MORPETH COMMON
U13 WASPS	MORPETH COMMON
U13 WOLVES	MORPETH COMMON
U14 LIONS	CHANTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
U14 PANTHERS	CHANTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL
U15 BLACKS	CRAIK PARK
U15 DRAGONS	CRAIK PARK
U16 EAGLES	CRAIK PARK



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE

### OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE SQUADS

TEAM	MATCHDAY VENUE
U17 PANTHERS	CRAIK PARK





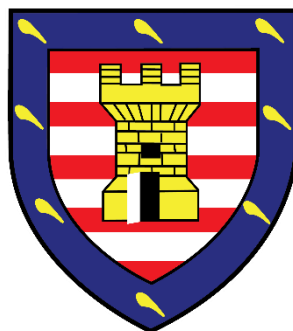
# OUR PATHWAY TO ADULT FOOTBALL

As an England Accredited 3-star club, we need to create a pathway into adult football for both boys and girls. It's fair to say that as a club, many of our oldest members leave to go to university, but for those that do stay locally, we want to see progress into adult football.

There are options and we don't have to form our own adult teams, but for males we have a connection to Morpeth FC (see below) whose current squad includes a number of ex-juniors. On the female side, we have Morpeth Town Women who are now starting their third season. Finally, as part of our link with Morpeth Town FC, some of our juniors progress to their academy – its post 16 football and education programme.



A local Saturday adult team that plays in the Northern Football Alliance league and is run by ex junior club coaches. Many squad members are ex-Morpeth Town Juniors players too.



## MORPETH TOWN WOMEN

Newly launching for the 2023/24 season, a long-overdue women's team in Morpeth competes in the Northumberland Football League Women's Premier League after promotion in their first season.

A participation 'training-only' squad will also be running under the club's name.

**tyne  
metropolitan  
college**

**MORPETH TOWN AFC  
ACADEMY**  
Established pathways into senior football.  
Education pathways including trade qualifications in construction & engineering.  
University pathway courses: A-Levels & Level 3 Diploma in Sport among others.  
Player development support including Sports Science, Strength & Conditioning, Catapult GPS, Match Analysis & Sports Therapy.  
Showcase games & trial opportunities.  
Train every day at Craik Park on a state of the art 3G surface.  
Coached & mentored daily by UEFA qualified coaches including first team staff.



***Building clear pathways to  
brighter future!***  
If you are interested in joining our academy please get in touch!

Morpeth Town FC's post-16 Academy football / education programme.





# PATHWAY TO ADULT FOOTBALL – MORPETH TOWN WOMEN



In 2023, Morpeth Town Juniors launched its women's team. Not only was the creation of a women's team long overdue in the town, it created a pathway for the Juniors' older girls to continue into adult football and that pathway was clearly demonstrated in the second half of last season. It also sits nicely alongside Morpeth Town FC (the senior club) which has fully embraced the team and its growing band of supporters.

**ALONGSIDE the team**, the club is also running a participation group for women. These are for those that don't want to be part of the playing team, but want to enjoy some coached sessions and an enjoyable kick around on a regular basis to improve fitness in a social environment. There comes a possibility of playing some recreational games, but generally, the emphasis is on fun and fitness.





ALL ABOUT

# THE JUNIORS AND MORPETH TOWN A.F.C.



**JUNIOR & SENIOR CLUB**



*WORKING AS ONE*







# OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MORPETH TOWN A.F.C.



Whilst we are separate entities (purely for financial reasons as the juniors are membership based), the Juniors and Morpeth Town AFC seek to operate as one.

Our relationship has strengthened in recent years and there are good people at the senior club who fully embrace the juniors and recognise the mutual benefit our close association brings. People like Steve Shaw and management duo Craig Lynch and James Armstrong have engaged actively with the Juniors whilst members of the first team squad help at school holiday camps. Regular senior club volunteers led by Dave Robertson and Ross Jackson also contribute fully to the relationship whilst the Juniors now have representation at Senior Club committee meetings too.

Our extensive use of the Craik Park facilities allows to play and train at some of the best facilities available to juniors in the area. Allied to that, we engage in numerous joint initiatives that brings benefit to both parties :

- Club Fun Day
- Tournament Hosting
- School Holiday Football Camps
- Coached by the Coaches sessions
- Birthday Parties
- Mascot opportunities
- Season Tickets for all junior members
- Volunteer Days
- Exploring the opportunity of one to one coaching (subject to separate fee)

With the Juniors using Morpeth Common for games, Craik Park and the Common has become our long sought after 'home'. We've been able to access Football Foundation and FA Funding to develop the relationship such as the funding of the new wheeled goalposts on Craik Park and the development of the new 'Far Post' kitchen in the South East corner of Craik Park.

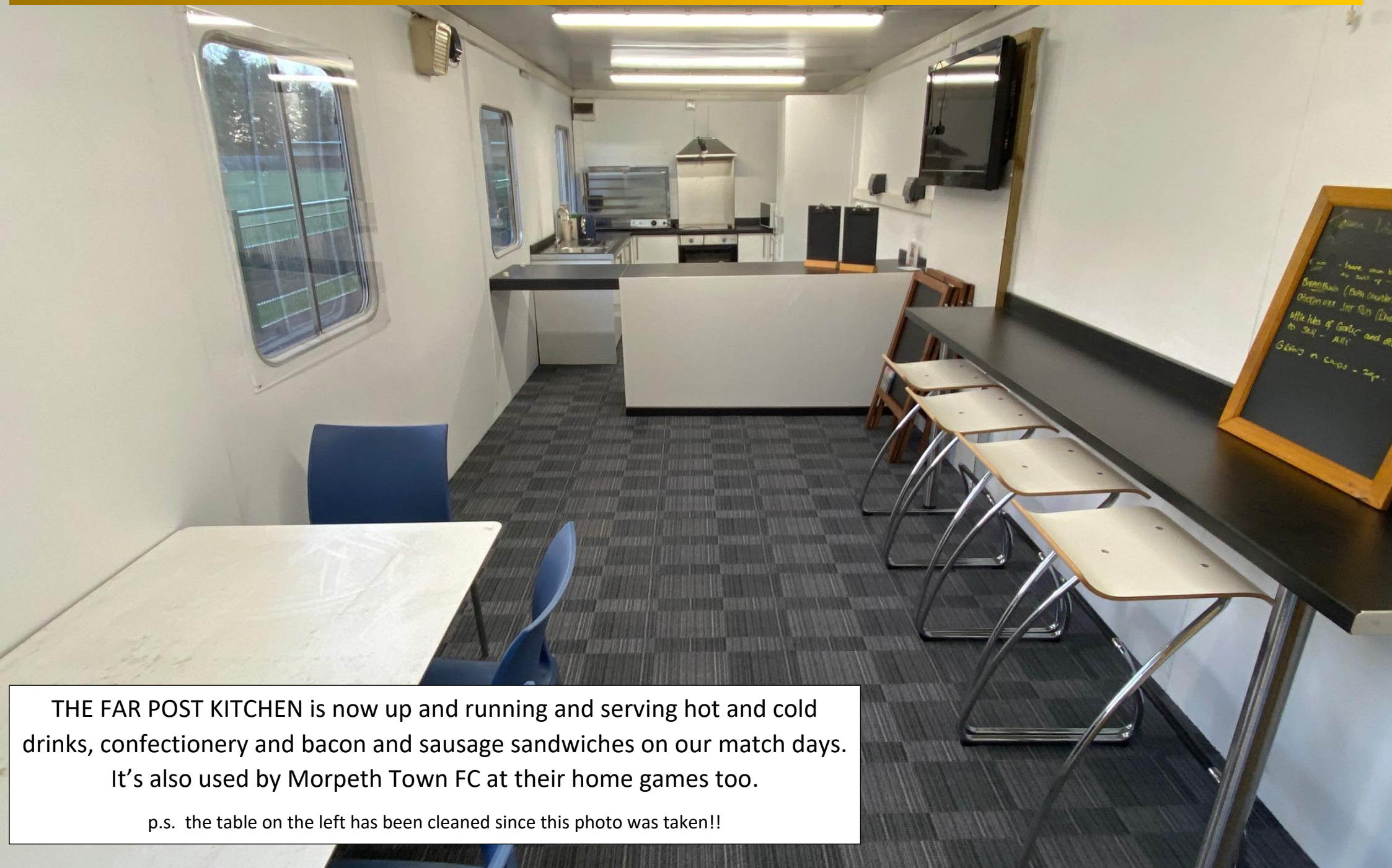
All very positive!

***It's not all about winning –  
it's about being a part of it!!***





# THE 'FAR POST' KITCHEN



THE FAR POST KITCHEN is now up and running and serving hot and cold drinks, confectionery and bacon and sausage sandwiches on our match days. It's also used by Morpeth Town FC at their home games too.

p.s. the table on the left has been cleaned since this photo was taken!!



# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In this section

- Sponsorship Information
- Our Kit
- Our Partnerships & Community Connections
- The John Phillips Football Tournament

- Sponsor Index
- Education Opportunities
- Our Fun Day 2025
- The Emily Pattison Award





# SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

It costs around £125,000 per season to run Morpeth Town Juniors and whilst membership subscriptions covers the bulk of that cost, sponsorship is a key contribution towards any shortfall.

There are many opportunities to sponsor – be it the main sponsor on a club kit or squad rain-jackets, or by creating a sponsorship towards the provision of some additional team training gear. What's more, part of the sponsorship of items the club would ordinarily have to buy (e.g. club kit), will go directly to the introducing team to spend on some specific activity or even a squad social event.

A sponsorship will last the lifetime of a kit / jacket (usually 2-3 years), **but a sponsorship agreement will help your business to:**

- Build links between your business and the local community
- Enhance your business image
- Increase local awareness of your business
- Build goodwill among the community and other local businesses
- Promote your business and attract new customers

**The benefits that we offer you as a sponsor are:**

- Your logo and profile on the Morpeth Town Juniors website
- Your logo and profile in the Morpeth Town Juniors digital handbook sent to all members and their parents.
- A sponsorship announcement on the club's Social Media channels.
- Invitations to Morpeth Town Juniors events
- A photo of our team wearing the sponsored shirt for display in your office / workspace

## TEAM STRIP SPONSORSHIP COSTS

5-A-SIDE TEAMS	6-A-SIDE TEAMS	7-A-SIDE TEAMS	9-A-SIDE TEAMS	11-A-SIDE TEAMS
£350	£400	£450	£550	£750

## TRAINING KIT SPONSORSHIP COSTS

5-A-SIDE TEAMS	6-A-SIDE TEAMS	7-A-SIDE TEAMS	9-A-SIDE TEAMS	11-A-SIDE TEAMS
£250	£300	£350	£450	£650

As part of the 'Training Kit' sponsorship, you can choose one of the following items free of charge for each member of your squad which will have the sponsors logo applied:  
Mistral Jacket, Mansel Zip Top, Hooded Top, Everton T-Shirt

Once a 'Training Kit' sponsorship fee has been paid, you can add the sponsor's logo to other training items for an additional fee of £3 per logo application, on top of the garment cost.

*With thanks!*





## SPONSOR INDEX

We are very grateful to local businesses that have sponsored our teams for the 2025 / 26 season.  
With our thanks, we are delighted to name-check and highlight them here.



**D.A. JOHNSTONE**





# SPONSOR INDEX



**NARRO**

NORTHERN  
SKIN CO.

**L.J.M. JOINERY**  
NORTHUMBERLAND  
07748 086193



*Enjoy ...*  
*Di Meo's*  
1925  
CAFE • GELATERIA • PIZZERIA



**Sendrig**  
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

*Hays Travel*





# OUR KIT



Our kit is bespoke to the club and not based on a manufacturer's template and in 2024/25, we updated our kit to give it a more contemporary feel. Made by Errea, the home kit is short sleeved and remains based on the traditional amber and black stripes coupled with plain black shorts and socks, the colours worn by Morpeth Town and the Juniors for many years.

The club will gradually phase in this new kit as and when teams are due to renew their kits, but the initial response to the new look has been positive. The club rarely has a colour clash when playing (aside from Berwick Rangers Juniors), so the club keeps a stock of away shirts of varying sizes and numbers which individual squads can utilise and return as and when required. The blue shirts also mirror the colours sported by the senior club in recent seasons.

**Playing kit belongs to the club, not the player. If a player leaves the club, the kit must be returned; in the case of a transfer, this will need to have taken place prior to the transfer being sanctioned in accordance with league rules.**



**AWAY SHIRT**



# OUR KIT & EQUIPMENT



**EVERTON T-SHIRT**



**VIENNA POLO**



**MANSEL ZIP-NECK**



**JONAS HOODY**



**ICELAND JACKET**



**KEY TRACK-PANTS**

The club has a range of additional kit which is available for order / purchase (see <https://www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk/club-shop>). Also manufactured by Errea and supplied by Elite Embroidery, the club requests that teams order additional garments from within its advertised range to maintain uniformity club-wide and our contract with Elite / Errea. Items can be sponsored as required.



**'MISTRAL' MEMBERSHIP  
JACKET**

## WHAT EACH TEAM GETS

In addition to the playing kit (and Mistral Membership jacket), each squad is provided with the following :

- 2-match balls of the appropriate size and training balls amounting to size of squad (plus a ball bag / net)
- Ball pump and needle
- Training cones
- First Aid Kit
- Two sets of coloured bibs
- Coaching Tactics board
- Iceland jackets for coaches / managers



**BEANIES / BOBBLE HATS**







# EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



This is an area we want to explore further. What opportunities can we offer our members that can provide mutual benefit for the club and its members?

Via the FA's 4-cornered coaching model to which the club subscribes, children should develop skills and characteristics – be they physical, social, technical or psychological, but what other opportunities can we offer?

These could include :

**Referee Opportunities** – possibly funding basic referee training in return for refereeing games for the club.

**Coaching Opportunities** – looking at children doing their FA coaching qualifications whilst giving them the chance to join younger squads at the club to support existing coaches and develop their own coaching skills.

In addition to gaining qualifications which they could further as they grow older, these could help youngsters by way of :

- Personal Development
- Confidence & Communication Skills
- Things that can be put on personal CV as they move towards employment or further education.
- Earning some money via referee fees!

An initiative we'll be looking closely at over this coming season. Welcome thoughts.





# OUR PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Key to our development is to cement and strengthen our relationship with Morpeth Town FC. Whilst we are a totally separate entity (primarily for financial reasons as we are membership based and the senior club is run as a business), we want to be seen as part of the same so that both parties can mutually benefit from the presence of the Juniors.



With the help of a local FA Consultant, we are currently exploring ways to capitalise on our association and forge ever closer links and initiatives with the Morpeth community.



Jim Provett (former professional keeper with Hartlepool, Dsrlington and Bury) provides our specialist coaching to our junior keepers whilst Fun Day contributions have allowed us to make charitable donations to the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank in Morpeth, Barnabas and Brightred.org – a local charity helping people with blood cancer – and in 2024, Morpeth Lions. We will be making a donation of £500 later this year from money raised at our fun day in June.

Grounds Maintenance Specialists (GMS) in Cramlington assists us on pitch maintenance and will be an important ongoing partner at Morpeth Common, and via Thomas Sherriff & co, the club has purchased its own maintenance machinery and equipment. We continue to use the facilities at Chantry / Cheviot Trust for training and games. Elite Embroidery is our kit supplier (in conjunction with Errea) and we recently started work with Prudhoe based Club Supporter to provide membership software to the club.







# OUR FUN DAY 2025



















# THE JOHN PHILLIPS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

In July, the club hosted the second John Phillips Football Tournament with 40 teams playing games across two days – both mixed and girls' teams. Once again, the tournament was very well received with some excellent, positive feedback. Individual tournament honours were spread around, but well done to our U7 Thunder team who emerged victorious in the U7 category, defeating a strong Cramlington Juniors team in the final.

The tournament made over £1,000 for the club, but that was only achievable thanks to the volunteers at Morpeth Town FC and our own club who all ensured the day was a great success. **Many thanks to all involved.**

John was a former coach with the Juniors and volunteer at the senior club who sadly passed away in 2023 and the trophies were presented by John's widow Beth.





## MORPETH TOWN JUNIORS F.C.

### THE JOHN PHILLIPS YOUTH FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at Craik Park, Morpeth, NE61 2YX

U7, U8, U9 & U10 Youth Football Tournament (see below)

<b>9.00am – 1.00pm</b> U7s Mixed – 10 teams U9 & U10 Girls – 2 x 5 teams * Based on 25/26 season age groups	<b>2.00pm – 6.00pm</b> U8s Mixed – 10 teams U9s Mixed – 10 teams * Based on 25/26 season age groups
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A chance for children to play at Morpeth Town FC's home ground. Food and refreshments available

**£55 per team entry fee**

Tournament suitable for middle and lower ranked teams based on Northumberland Football League tables or equivalent.

Emphasis on children having fun and an enjoyable day for family and friends – participation medals for ALL players.





# THE EMILY PATTISON AWARD



Emily Pattison was a club member who had played for the club's U16 Girls team when she suddenly and very unexpectedly died in August 2018, two days before receiving her GCSE results.

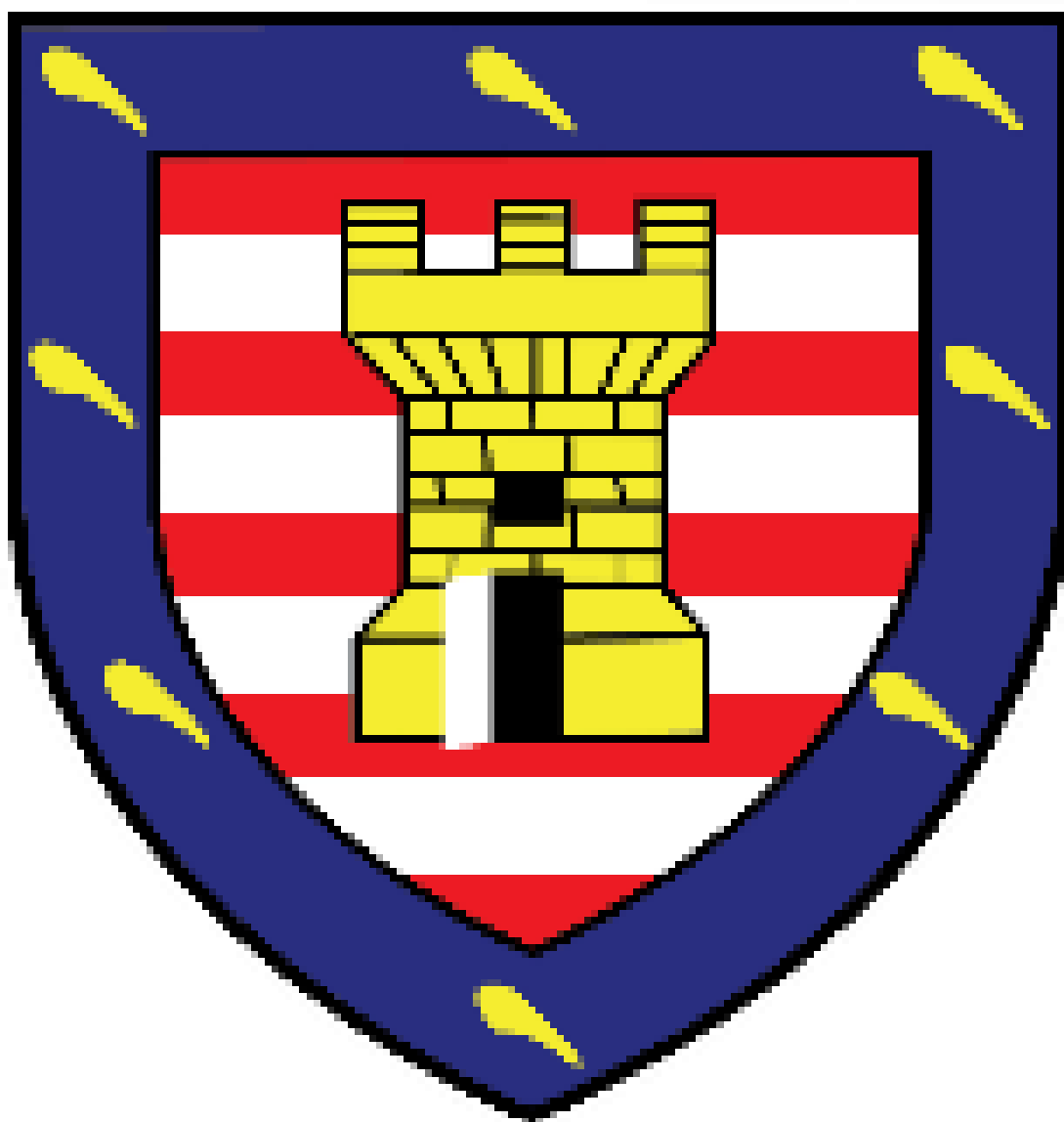
A Newcastle United fanatic, Emily enjoyed sport and playing for the Juniors, and with the support and agreement of her parents Lorna and Kevin (who had been a coach with the club previously), the club created the Emily Pattison Award in her memory.

The award is made annually to a youngster / club member who has contributed above and beyond to the club or who has played a part despite difficult personal circumstances and in 2025, the award was given to a player in the U10 Hornets squad.



# CLUB HANDBOOK

## SEASON 2025 / 26



[www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk](http://www.morpethtownjuniors.co.uk)