

Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club

**Welcome &
Information
Pack**

www.middletonrangers.co.uk



WELCOME TO MIDDLETON RANGERS



“With over 200 players and 12 teams playing competitive football, we are one of the fastest growing clubs in the Durham Tees Valley area.

Our primary aim is to provide children of the village and surrounding areas the opportunity to play football in a friendly and safe environment and to make sure they enjoy themselves”

Les Hughes
Club Chairman

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Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club

The History of the Club

Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club was founded in 2003 by parents in Middleton St George who wanted to provide competitive football for their children.

In season 2004/2005 the club joined the Teesside Junior Alliance League and had three teams playing small sided football at Under 9 & 10 age groups & 11-a-side at Under 11's. At the end of the year our Under 9's won our first honours, winning the Barnard Castle 7 a side competition.

The following year 2005/2006 saw the club with five teams, Under 9 & 10 small sided and Under 11,12 & 14 at 11-a-side. As a result of tremendous hard work the season ended with two championships from the 12's & 14's.

Season 2006/2007 saw the club grow again with eight teams, seven of which entered the TJFA league at Under 8, 9, 10, 11,12 (2 teams) and 13. The U16's were also affiliated and played 5-a-side league matches at Soccer Sensations.

The 2007/2008 season saw the club grow again with eleven teams including a new girls team, A fantastic season saw the 8's & 9's continue to develop their football. The older age groups including the 11's won their league and the 10B's came runners up in the cup and league. The Under 14s were champions of their league.

Season 2008 / 2009 saw the club grow yet again with more teams and more opportunities for all the kids to play football. 12 teams competed, 10 in the TJFA league, 1 in the Russell Foster League and the girls in the North Riding Girls League.

The club is now established as one of the fastest growing clubs in the County and has fantastic support from hard working managers, coaches, parents, supporters and sponsors enabling the players to fulfil their personal dreams of playing football.

2009/10 continues the trend with a potential 14 teams set to start the season and represent our superb club.



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Welcome to Our Club

Parents

Thank you for taking an interest in our club, as a charter standard club we aim to provide the highest levels of care towards the young players involved with Middleton Rangers.

It is hoped that this information booklet will give you an insight into the club's history and those involved with the running of the club. As well as the different teams that play under the banner of Middleton Rangers.

Without the support from the parents we wouldn't be able to have a successful club and we value your commitment. From bringing your child to regular training to vocal support from the touchline during a game, we hope you enjoy our facilities and enjoy the occasion.

Some parents are extremely keen to get further involved with the development of the club and we always welcome this contribution.

If you would like to help out further we'd be delighted to hear from you .

Players

As a young player, congratulations on making the decision to join Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club, we hope that amongst all you will find fun and friendship within the team you choose to join, as well as learning and developing your skills as a junior footballer.

We hope that you will enjoy playing for Middleton Rangers and that you will be proud to have joined a friendly and progressive club.

At any level, it's all about enjoying the game of football and trying to improve your own ability with your team.

If you ever have any questions, speak to your team manager who will be always delighted to help you.



Growing & Investing In Our Club

Middleton Rangers always has and always will be a family club. Although originally formed in Middleton St George, we have continued to grow through our success and a number of our players come from other villages in the local community including Hurworth, Long Newton and Sadberge.

We are also delighted that we have attracted players from further afield due to our good reputation and success on the field.

We always maintain the club will be have the community spirit it originally started with but with natural progression Middleton Rangers has grown and now has over 200 children at the club.

Over the past few years the club has continued to invest in many different areas to support this growth including;

Training & Match Facilities

With outdoor facilities at our airport ground, cricket & social club and the village park, we also share facilities at Haughton Education Village.

We also use indoor training facilities during the winter months for the younger age groups at Egglecliffe School *and Eastbourne Methodist Church.*

During 2009 the club invested in outdoor lighting equipment and a generator power source to ensure training could continue throughout the winter months

Sports Equipment

Earlier this year the club invested in new full size goal posts for our training Ground at Teesside airport. Along with these, the club has 6 sets of mini-goals for mini-soccer games.

We are proud to equip all our teams with the necessary training equipment including training balls, match balls, bibs, cones etc

Clothing

All registered club players receive a team strip for match days and training. Our distinctive Orange and Black strips certainly help us stand out from the other teams.

In 2008/9 the club provided new smart outdoor fleeces for all registered players that proved to be an extremely practical investment in what turned out to be a cold winter.

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Sponsorship Opportunities

Throughout the football season our teams travel far and wide across the North East providing good exposure for Shirt Sponsors.

Shirt Sponsorship opportunities are available to any companies who wishing to sponsor a particular team or age group. Company logos can be incorporated on to the football shirts.

Shirt sponsorships starts from as little as £350 for the season and the sponsorship monies stays within the particular age group. In previous years sponsorship money has often contributed to new team tracksuits.

Health & Safety

As you may expect, your child's safety and welfare is our number one priority.

All our team coaches carry a first-aid kit in the event of an accident or injury and it is important we are aware of any of illness or medical condition that may affect your child.

Many children in the UK suffer from Asthma and we have a special information pack available to parents for children who may have symptoms of asthma—please ask our Welfare Officer for details.

Please note all children who suffer from asthma must bring their inhaler(s) to training or matches. They will not be allowed to play without them. Please also ensure your coach has your current contact details, mobile number at all times.

Insurance Cover

Your child is protected by the Clubs Insurance policy during training and matches.

In the event of a serious injury your team coach will provide all the necessary details to allow you to make a claim on behalf of your child.

For a copy of the Insurance Policy, please ask our Welfare Officer for details.



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Club Membership & Fees

In order to play for Middleton Rangers you must be a member of the club. This will allow you to play in competitive league matches and take advantage of many of the club benefits.

To become a member of the club the following fees apply:

Fees

The club has implemented the following fees for Season 2009 – 2010.

1. Membership

A £20 annual membership fee, which includes all fees payable to the leagues as well as insurance cover for all players registered with the club.

The membership fee is payable by all individuals, irrespective of what time of year they join the club.

2. Monthly Subscriptions

£100 annual one-off payment or £10.00 per month (12 months), payable by cheque, cash or standing order. Please note the club prefers parents to pay by standing order wherever possible as this is a safer alternative than cash.

Both membership fees and monthly subscriptions are essential to the club to pay for essential on-going items such as referee costs, pitch hire and ground maintenance and other necessary items such as training equipment.

Middleton St George Cricket Club

When membership fees have been paid the parent automatically becomes a member of the cricket club. Each parent can sign in an additional person to the club.

Payment of Fees

Whilst the majority of individuals pay the subs and registration fees on a regular basis, there have been on occasion instances where payments have not been forthcoming.

As a result the club has adopted a policy in relation to late payment of fees, for further details of this policy please contact the club treasurer.

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Payment of Fines

Whether it's the premiership or junior football, there is usually a competitive edge to every game. Good sportsmanship is a quality that our club values and its important that our children respect other teams, players and the referees at all times.

Of course there are limited occasions that the club is issued a fine in relation to a player's conduct on the pitch. On these occasions, it is expected the player or their parents undertake to repay the club the fine, in line with the club's constitution.

If a parent refuses to pay any such fine, the fine will be paid by the club and the players' membership may be suspended. It should be noted that a player cannot join another club until all financial commitments to Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club are met.

Committee Members

The club is a 'not for profit organisation', that is run for the young players and is supported by a committee made up from the coaches and parents of the players within the club.

All our team managers, coaches and club officials are volunteers and their time and commitment they dedicate to the running and management of the club is valued and appreciated. No member receives any remuneration for the time given to the club.

The committee is made up of the following:

Club Chairman:	Les Hughes
Club Secretary:	Peter Cherrett
Club Vice Chairman:	Lee Stephenson
Club Treasurer:	David Watson
Club Welfare Officer:	Ginny Younger

Should you have any queries about the club or would like to become involved with coaching or training any of our teams, you can contact the Club Chairman, Les Hughes on : 07834 858969



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Middleton Rangers Team Lists

We currently offer football to the following age groups: (2009/10 season)

Age Group	Contact Name	Contact Number
Under 6, 7 & 8's	Les Hughes	07834 858969
Under 9's 'A & B'	Mark Hunter	07532 372783
Under 10's	Andy Musgrave	07795 251913
Under 10's (Girls)	Sharon Watson	01325 333493
Under 11's	Dave Nelson	07929 272990
Under 12's 'A'	Altaf Rahman	07976 924767
Under 12's 'B'	Mark MacDonald	07813 196974
Under 13's	Andy Bruce	07725 130098
Under 13's (Girls)	Mark Ralphs	07814 679997
Under 14's	Les Hughes	07834 858969
Under 15's 'A'	Dave Watson	07766 942627
Under 15's 'B'	Richard Stevens	07747 840447
Under 16's & 18's	Les Hughes	07834 858969
Under 21's	Dave Thompson	07791 464256

Due to the high numbers within some age groups, there are sometimes an A & B team. Individual coaches will be able to explain this further if this applies to your child's age group.

Teesside Junior Football Alliance (TJFA)

The majority of Middleton Rangers teams are affiliated to the Teesside Junior Football Alliance. The League caters for junior football clubs within the Teesside area but extends its boundaries to include clubs from Durham and North Yorkshire.

The League recently gained a prestigious award and has now received recognition as an FA Charter Standard accredited League,

The TJFA website is an ideal source for information & provides valuable statistics for all Rangers clubs— log on at tjfa.co.uk.

Russell Foster League

Similar in size to the TJFA but based in Sunderland. The Russell Foster League features our Under 11's B team and Under 21's. Have a look at their website for details www.rfyouthleague.co.uk



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How to Become Involved

As a chartered standard club we operate an open and transparent policy and would ask that any parent who wishes to become involved in the club and its activities contacts the chairman of the club.

In addition to becoming involved, we encourage all parents to actively attend any committee meeting they wish to find out more about we operate and the policies we have in place.

Committee Meetings take place on the 1st Tuesday of every month and are held at Middleton St George Cricket and Social Club between 8pm and 10pm.

During the course of the meetings we discuss issues that may have arisen and consider how best the club can be developed as well as discussing fundraising issues and individual team progress.

It is also at these meetings where decisions are made on equipment expenditure.

What Opportunities Are Available?

Coaching

The club is always on the lookout for promising new football coaches to help teach, coach and train our children. You'll need bags of enthusiasm and no qualifications are needed—we may even put you through your first FA training courses if you want to get serious. You'll need to have a CRB check carried out by the club.

Team Secretary

Organising matches, liaising with the parents and children, phoning in results—all important tasks that have to be done. If you don't have the time to coach—you may have some great organisational skills to contribute,

Supporter

Come rain or shine, all our children welcome positive support from the touchlines. We look forward to seeing you there!



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Child Welfare

As a chartered standard football club, the club operates within the guidelines set out by the FA. The club are committed to the development of all players and take the safety and wellbeing of all children involved with the club extremely seriously.

To this end, the club have an appointed welfare officer, responsible for ensuring the safety of all players is at the heart of Middleton Rangers.

The club also ensures that all individuals involved in the care, training and supervision of children within Middleton Rangers are CRB checked, in line with FA guidelines.

Coaches and managers also expected to have attained or being working towards a Level One Badge in Coaching, which is overseen by the FA.

In order to ensure that the club adopts best practice in all areas related to running a Junior Football club, the following policies and procedures are in place:

- Club Constitution
- Child Protection Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Equal Opportunity Policy
- Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures
- Use of Photography and Media materials
- Code of conducts for players, coaches and parents
- Payments of fines
- Late payment of Fees

Further details of these procedures and policies can be provided to you via a member of the club committee or can be downloaded from the club website:

www.middletonrangers.co.uk

If you have any issues relating to the Welfare and Safety of your child, please contact the Club Welfare officer Ginny Younger on 07729 869597.



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Club Welfare Issues

In line with regulations set out by the FA, the club has a dedicated Welfare Officer, who deals with all issues in relation to the safeguarding and child welfare.

The officer is able to discuss any concerns you may have about your child during their time with Middleton Rangers, as well as providing advice and guidance to coaches, team managers and committee members of the football club.

The Club also operates a welfare fund which can be accessed during period of financial hardship or whereby a child is injured during the course of playing football—all issues are dealt with on a one to one basis and are treated confidentially, within the club committee.

Child Protection Issues

Where issues of a child protection nature may arise, the club is obligated to report their concerns to the local safeguarding children's board and the FA Safeguarding Unit. Any issues of this nature will be dealt with sensitively and in a confidential manner.

However, any disclosures that are reported to any official of the club cannot be held in confidence and need to be shared with the relevant agencies.

Child abuse is a term used to describe the following:

- Any act, statement, conduct or other matter which harms a child or children, or poses or may pose a risk of harm to a child or children.
- Abusive situations arise when adults or peers misuse their power over children or young people.

This club operates following the FA code of practice and as such recognises the responsibility of all adults (coaches and parents) to ensure the safety of the players.

A copy of the full FA policy is held on file at the club as well as being able to be viewed on the club website.

Should you need to discuss any welfare issues, you are able to contact the Club Welfare Officer, Ginny Younger on 07729 869597



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Equal Opportunity Policy

Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club is committed to a policy of equal treatment of all members and requires all members of whatever level or authority, to abide and adhere to this general principle and the requirements of the Codes of Practice issued by the Equal Opportunities Commission and Commission for Racial Equality.

All members are expected to abide by the requirements of the Race Relations Act 1976, Sex Discrimination Act 1986 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Specifically discrimination is prohibited by:

Treating any individual on grounds of gender, colour, marital status, race, nationality or ethnic or national origin, religion, sexual orientation or disability less favourably than others. Expecting an individual solely on the grounds stated above to comply with requirement(s) for any reason whatsoever related to their membership, which is different from the requirements for others.

Imposing on individual requirements, which are in effect more onerous on that individual than they are on others. For example, this would include applying a condition, which makes it more difficult for members of a particular race or sex to comply than others not of that race or sex.

Victimisation of an individual.

Harassment of an individual, by virtue of discrimination.

Any other act or omission of an act, which has as its effect the disadvantaging of a member against another, or others, purely on the above grounds.

Thus, in all the Club's recruitment, selection, promotion and training processes, as well as disciplinary matters, it is essential that merit, experience, skills & temperament are considered objectively as possible.

Middleton Rangers commits itself to the Immediate investigation of any claims of discrimination on the above grounds and where such is found to be the case, a requirement that the practice cease forthwith, restitution of damage or loss (if necessary) & to the investigation of any member accused of discrimination.

Any member found guilty of discrimination will be instructed to desist forthwith. Since discrimination in its many forms is against the Football Club's policy, any members offending will be dealt with under the disciplinary procedure.

Middleton Rangers Junior Football Club commits itself to the disabled person whenever possible and will treat such members, in aspects of their recruitment and membership, in exactly the same manner as other members. The difficulties of their disablement permitting assistance will be given, wherever possible to ensure that disabled members are helped in gaining access. Appropriate training will be made available to such members who request it.



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Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure

In line with FA guidance, the club has a set procedure to enable members to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Club Management Committee.

However in order to minimise the need to evoke these procedures unnecessarily, it should be noted that the club exists to provide young players with the opportunity to develop their football in an enjoyable coaching environment.

It has also been proven that early discussion of an issue often resolves matters without recourse to further procedures and that any issues raised should not be personalised and that differences of opinion and approach can exist and may not be resolved.

However, if there is a matter of very serious concern to a member then the following procedure will be adhered to:

STAGE ONE:

Individuals must submit a written document outlining their concerns/ issues to the club Chairman.

This information will then be reviewed by the club committee.

STAGE TWO:

The views and observations of other club members will be sought and the persons involved may be invited to attend a committee meeting.

The information will then be further reviewed by the club committee

STAGE THREE:

A decision will then be made and all parties involved will receive a written letter advising them of the outcome of the complaint.

This may take the following form.

The matter is resolved and agreed amicably by all parties.

The matter is resolved by the application of one of the following sanctions:

- a member is suspended from some specified club activities
- a member is suspended from all club activities and games for a defined period
- a member is expelled from the club.

The committee reserves the right to inform the appropriate league or County FA of its action if the matter has arisen as a result of an officials' formal complaint or if the matter is a dispute involving another club.

Some matters may require urgent action to be taken and immediate contact made with the relevant civil authority. In these cases the procedures followed will be as directed by that authority.



Codes of Conduct

As with all football clubs at a grass roots level, Middleton Rangers operates a code of conduct for everyone involved in football and parents are encouraged to undertake the online course “soccer parent” which examines a parent’s role in supporting their child in their football.

This course can be accessed via : www.thefa.com/

Coaches and parents must ensure that:

- players do not over train beyond their physical or mental capability
- players are not exposed to unsafe equipment or extremes of weather.
- no inappropriate physical support, treatment or touching takes place.
- players are not exposed to bullying: either physical, verbal or emotional criticism that is distressing to the victim.

Code of Conduct - Coaches

As a Charter Standard Club registered with Durham County FA, the club believe that coaches are key to the establishment of ethics in football and as such, the club have adopted a code of conduct for coaches.

The code looks at coaches own concept of ethics and their attitude and how this directly affects the behaviour of players under their supervision. Coaches are, therefore, expected to pay particular care and attention to the moral aspect of their conduct.

Coaches have to be aware that almost all of their everyday decisions and choices of actions, as well as strategic targets, have ethical implications.

It is natural that winning constitutes a basic concern for coaches. This code is not intended to conflict with that. However, the code calls for coaches to disassociate themselves from a 'win-at-all-costs' attitude.

Increased responsibility is requested from coaches involved in coaching young people. The health, safety, welfare and moral education of young people is a first priority, before the achievement or the reputation of the Club, school, coach or parent.

* Further information in relation to the codes of conduct can be seen on the Club Website: www.middletonrangers.co.uk



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

Code of Conduct - Parents

Parents and Spectators have a great influence on children's enjoyment and success in football. All children play football because they first and foremost love the game – its fun.

It is important to remember that however good your child becomes at football, parents should always remember that positive encouragement will contribute to:

1. Children enjoying football.
2. A sense of personal achievement.
3. An improved self-esteem.
4. Improving the child's skills and techniques.

And that your own expectations and attitudes towards your child will have a significant bearing on a child's attitude towards:

1. Other players.
2. Officials.
3. Managers.
4. Spectators.

We ask that all parents observe the following during training sessions and matches:

1. Applaud the opposition as well as your own team.
2. Avoid coaching the child during the game.
3. Not to shout and scream.
4. Respect the referee's decision.
5. Give attention to each of the children involved in football not just the most talented.
6. Give encouragement to everyone to participate in football

Code of Conduct – Players

Players are the most important people in the sport. Playing for the team, and for the team to win, is the most fundamental part of the game. But players should not adopt a 'win at all costs' attitude. Fair play and respect for all others in the game is fundamentally important.



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Obligations towards The Game

A player should:

1. Make every effort to develop their own sporting abilities, in terms of skill, technique, tactics, stamina and understanding the rules of the game.
2. Give maximum effort and strive for the best possible performance during a game, even if his team is in a position where the desired result has already been achieved.
3. Set a positive example for others, particularly young players and supporters.
4. Avoid all forms of poor gamesmanship and time-wasting.
5. Always have regard for the best interests of the game, including where publicly expressing an opinion on the game and any particular aspect of it, including others involved in the game.
6. Not use inappropriate language.

Obligations towards One's Own Team

A player should:

1. Make every effort consistent with Fair Play and the Laws of the Game to help his own team win.
2. Resist any influence which might, or might be seen to, bring into question his commitment to the team winning.

Respect towards The Match Officials

A player should:

1. Accept the decision of the Match Official without protest.
2. Avoid words or actions which may mislead a Match Official.
3. Show due respect towards Match Officials.

Respect towards Team Officials

A player should:

1. Abide by the instructions of their Coach and Team Officials provided they do not contradict the spirit of this Code.
2. Show due respect towards the Team Officials of the opposition



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Respect For The Laws Of The Game And Competition Rules

A player should:

1. Know and abide by the Laws, rules and spirit of the game, and the competition rules.
2. Accept success and failure, victory and defeat, equally.
3. Resist any temptation to take banned substances or use banned techniques.

Respect towards Opponents

A player should:

1. Treat opponents with due respect at all times, irrespective of the result of the game.
2. Safeguard the physical fitness of opponents, avoid violence and rough play, and help injured opponents of the opposition.



If you have any feedback relating to our club, our activities or any general comments, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email us at middletonrangers@aol.com or call any of our volunteers listed in this pack—we would be delighted to hear from you!