



2014 PREMIER NORTH CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

WWW.PIRATESFOOTBALL.CO.UK

We're recruiting!

We'll be holding an open taster session for new players on the indoor pitch at **Hamilton Palace Sports Ground, Hamilton, ML3 6BY** on **Sunday 11 January** from 1-3pm.

You'll get the chance to find out more about playing for the Pirates, meet some of the team and be put through your paces. Bring along footwear suitable for training on an indoor synthetic pitch and your enthusiasm!

The remaining Sunday 1-3pm Sunday training slots in January will then focus on rookie fundamentals, before our veteran players return to training on Sunday 1 February.

What makes us different?

Why play for us and not another team? We like to think we've got a lot to offer both new players and those who've played before that sets us apart from other clubs in Scotland.

Our coaching

We have no player-coaches, and offer dedicated positional coaching. We support and encourage our coaches to develop, and fund their attendance at clinics, conferences and courses.

Our winter training facilities

From January – March 2014 we will train indoors on the synthetic pitch at Hamilton Palace Sports Ground. This means uninterrupted winter training with a limited chance of bad weather disruption, and no need to brave the cold and wet!

Film

We make extensive use of film, recording all Sunday practices and providing feedback on performance via Hudl – leading software used by college and NFL programmes in the US. This is available as an app so you can review film via your phone or tablet. We also make significant use of film to scout opponents, to put our players in the best position to win every game



Training camp

Our 2015 annual residential training camp will be held at Strathallan Independent School in Fife from Friday 20 – Sunday 22 March. Strathallan has excellent facilities, and was used as training venue on the run up to the Commonwealth Games. Camp is optional, but is highly recommended as a great way for new players to get up to speed and get to know their team mates. For the fourth year running the cost will be subsidised by the team down to just £100 per player for three days of football, accommodation and all meals.

Our gameday

Our regular home ground of Hamilton Rugby Club is enclosed with a club house and bar, offering hot food at half time and after the game. We have an electronic score board, and offer commentary when we can. We have a team of volunteers who work hard to make this a great day out you'll be proud to invite your friends and family to, and for big games we can have in excess of 300 people cheering you on.

We play hard

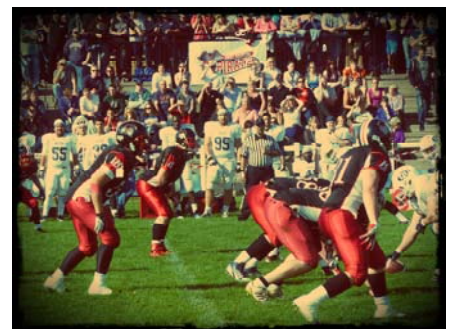
We don't just play hard on the field. From organised team nights out for Christmas and Super Bowl to fundraisers like race nights and quizzes, there's always something going on. Our showcase event is our annual player of the year awards – a formal sit-down dinner, which regularly attracts around 100 people. On top of this there's nights away socialising with other teams after games during the season, and plenty of ad hoc mayhem.

Our organisation

Our club is managed by a dedicated committee, led by a non-player. We follow all the rules, make sure everything is done the right way and with player health and safety in mind at all times. We don't settle for second best, and are always pushing to be better. We attend league meetings and always make sure we get involved in all aspects of the sport. We take things like insurance seriously and make sure claims are made swiftly in the event of serious injury.

Our finances

Our finances are in great shape and are managed transparently, with every player given a monthly update on their financial status. At the end of the year we share a full copy of our accounts so our members can see exactly what we've spent their money on. Our members are also welcome to ask questions about our finances or look at our accounts at any time. We have a fantastic track record at securing grant funding for the club. And for the last four years, players have told us via our feedback survey that they think the club is great value for money.



We listen

Your views are important to us. We hold an annual, anonymous, feedback survey and invite players, coaches and staff to share their views on every aspect of the organisation. We regularly act on this feedback, and over the last few years have made small changes like providing water bottles for every positional group and having tables and chairs on the sideline, and big changes like switching mid-week training venue and investing in equipment.

We don't charge you extra

No extra money for buses, or playoffs, or to bail the team out because we've not budgeted right. The only time we'll look for extra money is if you elect to do optional things, like training camp, attend events, buy merchandise or stay over for team nights out. Even then, we'll always try to keep costs low.

We think about the future

We plan for the long term. Our goal is to play in Europe, and that's what we're working towards. We have a thriving u19s programme, with two youth teams and a junior team. These will help us ensure an pool of talented young players who will be our successful senior players and GB athletes of the future.

We get good press

We have team photographers who attend our games, as well as lots of interest from the local press. We're often on the back page of local papers. In the past we've featured on STV, Sky Sports and network radio. This year we featured in the Daily Record and Scottish Sun. Our 2014 game against Tamworth was also streamed live around the world by Double Coverage.

The little extras

We try and add things all the time to make things better value or give our players a better experience. For example, Gatorade on gamedays, and to help make sure our players stay fit and healthy, our volunteers include a doctor, plus a sports therapist and a first aider, both of whom can offer kinesio taping.

Even more football

Although we've lost games to forfeits over the last few years, we've off set this by scheduling extra games and scrimmages. Last season we helped Newcastle Vikings enter the league by playing one of their associate games, and we also travelled to Aberdeen to scrimmage with the Roughnecks. In 2015 we're welcoming Newcastle Vikings and Belfast Trojans for pre-season games at home, and most excitingly, have a friendly fixture arranged with Hanover Panthers, a NCAA Div 3 college team from Indiana who're travelling over to Scotland in May!



What we're looking for

We've told you what we offer, but what do we expect in return?

The fundamental thing is commitment. This is not a pub team. You will need to regularly attend practice, get your head into film, know your playbook and put in effort at the gym. If you're only interested in turning up on gamedays or getting a new Facebook profile pic, you're not who we're looking for.

You'll have a desire to improve. We will help you understand your strengths and your limitations and make you into a better player, but you need to leave your ego at the door and come to work as a team player.

You'll go the extra mile for your team off the field too. This includes helping at charity and promotional events and fundraisers and supporting our youth and junior teams.

You'll need a competitive nature. You'll have the desire to fight for a starting spot in the team and the desire to get on the field and win. Still interested? See you in January!

How much does it cost to join the Pirates?

For 2014 subs are £192 for new players and students, and £264 for returning players. In addition, around March you will need to pay a league registration fee of £32.50 – this must be paid individually and is mandatory across the sport. This makes you eligible for competition and provides insurance for training and games. You'll get an initial free trial period but after that a monthly standing order must be set up.

We have a small pool of kit available for players to use for the first few weeks, but if you decide to carry on, we'll expect you to buy your own. Starter packs containing everything you need – helmet, shoulder pads, leg pads, game pants, belt and training top – are available from suppliers from around £230. In addition to this, you will be expected to buy your own team socks (£5). If you already have your own kit or are transferring from another team, you will be expected to purchase your own game pants (c£20) and leg pads (c£15). We also hold an annual residential training camp, which costs £100 per person. This isn't mandatory, but is a great experience.

Where can I get more information?

If you want more information about the team, you can visit www.piratesfootball.co.uk, check out our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/piratesfootball>, or email info@piratesfootball.co.uk

