



2011 BRITISH DIVISION ONE CHAMPIONS

WWW.PIRATESFOOTBALL.CO.UK

## Want to join Scotland's Number One American Football team?

This year we're holding two open try-out sessions at **The John Wright Sports Centre, East Kilbride** on **Sunday 4** and **Sunday 11 December** from 2-4pm.

The sessions will be indoors to make sure that the weather doesn't get the better of us! You'll get the chance to find out more about playing for the Pirates, meet some of the team and try some of the drills used in the game. Bring along footwear suitable for training indoors and your enthusiasm!

### Do I need to have any experience?

It doesn't matter whether you've played before or want to try out a new sport, we can teach you the basics or help you refine your existing skills.

### Am I too short / tall / fat / thin to play American Football?

Although it helps if you're in shape, there's a place on the field for people of all shapes and sizes – so don't feel intimidated.

There are also plenty of people on the team who can advise on fitness and nutrition too. Many of the team train together as a group and our gym partner Superhero Fitness will give you a preferential rate as a Pirates player.

### What can I expect if I tryout with the Pirates?

We'll make you feel welcome and let you try out the different positions which make up the team and learn more about how the game's played in the UK. If you decide you like the game and want to play, we'll get you on-board and do our best to support you.



### **Do I need any special equipment?**

The Pirates try to provide the most important protective equipment for new players so you can try the game out. If you decide you want to play with the team, you'll need to buy your own equipment further down the line, but we can advise you on what to get and the best place to get it.

### **How much does it cost?**

Running an American Football team isn't cheap but the team work hard to bring in sponsorship and raise funds to help support the players. Players are expected to pay subs, with new players and students paying a discount of 25% on the amount that existing players pay.

For 2010 that amount was £180 for new players and students and £240 for existing players. This currently includes travel to all away games, training costs and league registration fees. We also try and provide opportunities to work this off through sponsored events throughout the year.

### **Where do you train and how much time will it take up?**

Training currently takes place on Sundays from the beginning of January on Astro Turf at Duncanrig High School, East Kilbride. From April we get outside for more training on a mid-week evening at Brancumhall, East Kilbride.

The regular season generally runs from April – August and as well as regular training sessions the Pirates will play ten games against their division opponents. In the current structure, five of these will be home games, and five will be away.

All away games will involve travel by bus to outside of Scotland, and may be as far a field as London and Bristol in 2012. This means you'll need to be fairly flexible, and may need to allow for the occasional overnight bus trip home or overnight stay.

### **Pirates 2012 training camp**

A residential training camp event is planned for Friday 23-Sunday 25 March at the Inverclyde National Sports Centre. The cost for this is £100 per person, including all food and accommodation. This is recommended for all team members, including new players, but attendance is entirely voluntary!

### **Where do you play?**

The team's home ground is Hamilton Rugby Club, an enclosed ground with a clubhouse offering excellent facilities for changing and pre and post-match entertainment. You can find out more at: [www.hamiltonrugbyclub.co.uk](http://www.hamiltonrugbyclub.co.uk)



### **What about off the field?**

The Pirates have an active calendar of social events, which not only allows us to spend time together away from playing and training, but also to raise funds for the team.

Regular events throughout the year include a SuperBowl party, a Player of the Year Awards night and dinner and a Christmas night out. In addition, there are plenty of ad hoc nights out and opportunities for mayhem!

The team is run by a committee of volunteers, headed up by Chairman Amanda McDonald. They look after everything from money and media relations to fund-raising and organising gamedays.

### **How does American Football work in the UK?**

The Pirates are part of the British American Football Association's National Leagues (BAFANL). The League currently has three divisions: Premier, 1 and 2, each with an annual playoff series and championship game to determine a winner.

As winners of the British Division 1 title in September, the Pirates are set to be promoted to the Premier for 2012.

You can find out more at <http://www.bafanl.co.uk/>

### **Our coaching team**

We have coaches capable of teaching everything from the very basics, right up to refining the skills of some of the best players in the UK.

Head Coach & Offensive Coordinator - Andrew Mackintosh

Defensive Coordinator - Ross Templeton

O-Line - Gary Chalmers

D-Line - James Dorman

Wide receivers – David Czekalla and John Heron

Defensive Backs – Ian Nelson

### **Where can I get more information?**

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

