

## Welcome to the 2025/2026 Season

As a long, hot summer unfortunately draws to a close, where hopefully everyone has had a chance to recharge and refresh – it's time to start the football season!

We start the new season in a great position with almost 200 players registered across 13 teams. We also welcome a new U10 team into the club alongside an adult team. We wish every team the very best of luck in the coming season!

## New Committee Welcome

A lot has changed at club level, where Damian, Jon and Laura all stepped aside from their respective roles at the Club – we thank them for their significant efforts over the years.

To take the club forward, Richard Johnson has taken the role as Club Chair; to replace Damian, Paul Haywood has taken the role of Vice Chair; replacing Jon. However, we are lucky to retain both Jon's and Damian's services as our welfare officers. We are also pleased to confirm that Katie will continue as our Club Secretary. Further announcements regarding the welfare positions will follow later in 2025.



## Membership Pack and Fees

The 2025 / 2026 membership pack accompanies this newsletter. The pack details the inputs needed as a parent / guardian to register player(s) into the Club. The pack also contains the fee's due for the upcoming season.

As a club we recognise the fee increase is more than an inflationary amount, mainly we attribute this to increases in the referee & winter training fees. Please read the pack carefully, where it details how to access additional support for those who may need extra time paying for their child(ren). The Club will do everything they can to help, but for fairness we need to ensure everyone pays and we will be firm in our "no pay, no play" policy, please discuss with a Team or Club official any help or assistance needed – any discussions or assistance will always be treated in strict confidence.

Please also read and understand the Club policies contained in the membership pack. These include our respect, anti-discrimination and welfare policies. It is important as a Club we lead by example and demonstrate the family friendly, inclusive and responsible club we are.

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## Club Sponsorship & Fundraising

As a Club we are always seeking opportunities to raise funds to support the ambitions of the Club. This will include pitch improvements, new equipment and keeping the annual fees reasonable. Unfortunately, we don't have any Club sponsors to help with these costs, hence if you are able to assist the Club financially in any capacity, please get in touch. In return we can offer visibility of your business on our new website, newsletter and matchday information sheet.

## Club Raffle – Closes 21<sup>st</sup> October

To kick off some fundraising for the upcoming season, we are pleased to introduce a club raffle. Tickets will be £1 each and available from the Club or Team Manager. All funds will go into the Club and provide additional equipment for the upcoming season.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Hospitality Table for 8 People at Kidderminster Harriers vs Darlington 8<sup>th</sup> Nov

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Drinks Hamper worth over £50

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Wine Hamper worth over £30

Other prizes to be announced shortly.

## Mini Kickers (Reception and Year 1)

We are looking to restart 'mini kickers' in October, register your interest via the website or Team Manager

# Rock Sports Youth Newsletter



## Introduction to our 2025 / 2026 Youth Football Teams

We asked our managers to provide a little summary of each team at the club.

Some recent successes (Left – U9, right U11 – last season)

**We are lucky to have 13 teams registered for the season, across most youth age groups. We also have 2 teams at some age groups.**

Firstly, the U7's, last year's mini kickers have stepped into the league. They will play on Sundays in the Stourbridge League. Scott, the Team Manager & Coach, together with his 2 other coaches Luke and Nick state, "We want to develop the players, across all abilities and we look forward to the season ahead, where we will hopefully see them thrive as a team."

**"We want to develop the players"**

The U8's are next, who have 2 teams both managed and coached by the same individuals, Andy, Dale and Jack. The U8's will play on both a Saturday and Sunday in the Mercian and Stourbridge League respectively. Andy States "After finishing last season as joint winners of the Stourbridge Trophy Group C, we'll be looking to build on that success and continue the development of our fantastic team of players. We've made the decision to compete across two leagues this year, which will not only provide more game time for everyone, but has also allowed us to take on a couple of additional signings. We're excited to kick-off the new season and wish everyone a successful and enjoyable year!"

We have 2 teams at under 9 age group. Where we have the Rock Rockets, managed and coached by Luke and Gav. We also have the Rock Rovers, managed and coached by Richard and Matt. Both teams will complete in the Mercian league for the 2025 / 2026 season.

Luke the U9 Rockets manager states "I have been involved with Rock Sports for 4-5 years. I am currently the Under-9s coach, now entering my second season in this position. I am passionate about creating a positive environment where players can develop their skills, grow in confidence, and enjoy their football. I look forward to guiding this group of lads through another positive season".

**"I look forward to guiding this group of lads through another positive season".**

Richard the U9 Rock Rovers manager says "I look forward to another exciting season with this talented bunch of players, building on a successful summer, we will look to further develop these hard-working players, but most importantly ensure they enjoy it. I must also mention the great group of parents we have, who always support in a positive and helpful way – thank you, I hope we can do you proud this season".

Next, we have the U10 teams, where again we have 2 teams represented in the Mercian League, Rock Sports Blue and the Rock Rockets.

Rock Sports Blue are managed by Claire and her coaches Luke and Rich. Claire states "We started coaching this group of U10's from mini kickers, returning to coach them for U8's to the present day. Last season we finished Mercian cup winners, which was a great achievement considering 56 teams entered. The attitude to listening and learning in the group is outstanding, so hopefully we can gain more success in the future".

**"We started coaching this group of U10's from mini kickers"**

Paul the manager of the Rock Rockets U10 says "This is our first proper season with this group of promising youngsters, where we will take all the training and friendly match experience we have into the league and give it a real good go, I look forward to seeing you cheering on from the sidelines".

**"I look forward to seeing you cheering on from the sidelines"**

Continued...

# Rock Sports Youth Newsletter



## Introduction to our 2025 / 2026 Youth Football Teams

We asked our managers to provide a little summary of each team at the club.

Some recent successes (U9 Rovers – Championship Winners Highley Miners Tournament)

We now introduce the U11 Rockets, managed and coached by Rich, where for the coming season he will be assisted by William. Rich states “I have been at the club 5 years and coach the U11’s with Will. I’ve just completed the UEFA C course this summer, learning a lot of new things which I hope to bring to this season. We have a great group of lads and parents, so should be another enjoyable year”.

We next have the U12 playing in the Mercian League, who are managed and coached by Marcus, who says “I have been with the club for three and a half years now and for this season I will be supported by my assistant coach Shaun. We have a talented and hard-working group of players, and I am looking forward to seeing their continued progress in the season ahead”.

Next, we have the U13, who play in the Evesham League under Steve. “I’ve been with the club for 6 years, and I’m lucky enough to manage our amazing U13s with my two coaches, Paul and Kez. Behind the scenes, Katie is the real MVP, keeping all the admin in check! This squad is a brilliant mix of hard workers, quick learners, and a few cheeky characters who always keep us smiling....

...we can’t wait to kick off our first season and see this talented group of players show what they can do!”

The u14s are next, who’s management team are really looking forward to leading them into their 1st season in the Stourbridge league after successful spells in the Stourport and Mercian league. Lee their manager says “Hi I’m Lee, leading the coaching team, going into my 14th season with Rock, with great help from Rob and Kev who have both helped with sponsorship too this season. Here’s to a great season with a super bunch of talented lads”.

**“We have a talented and hard-working group of players”**

Lastly at youth level we have our U16 teams, the Rock Rangers, managed by Jon and the Rock Rovers, led by Damian. The Rangers will play in the Mercian League on Saturday and the Rovers will play in the Stourbridge League on Sunday.

Jon the Rangers manager has been with the club for over 10 years. “Although nearing the end of our grass roots youth journey I am sure this year will be another competitive and enjoyable one”

Damian the Rovers manager writes “We have been part of the rock sports family since U8, with a large number of the original team still part of the squad. We have been promoted, and relegated, through the years alongside some memorable tournaments and cup runs. We are looking forward to starting the new season”.

Finally, we have the new Adult Team, where we asked Ned, the manager for a contribution “This year marks my 15th at Rock Sports, and it’s been an incredible experience, from coaching mini kickers all the way through to U18s, just like Ben. Together, we’ve watched players grow not just in skill, but in character. Now, for the first time in 20 years, Rock has an adult team, and it’s something truly special. Nick joined us on the coaching staff, bringing fresh energy and commitment to the squad. What makes this moment even more meaningful is that some of our players have been with Rock since they were just four years old. That kind of loyalty and connection says everything about the club”.

**“This year marks my 15th at Rock Sports”**