



Dear Member,

Since our successful presentation evening (the rain almost beat us but we won in the end) we have received some feedback and suggestions from members of the club regarding the way in which we set out the fees for the forthcoming season. It is clear that many of you have experience in running clubs like the WFC and it is great to be able to tap into this experience in order to develop our own approach and look for ways to continue improving and communicating.

In an effort to ensure transparency we have taken the time to consider these ideas and have decided to tune our approach accordingly.

Next seasons fees will increase by an additional £12 per child, from £140 to £152. Please refer to the revised 'player membership & subscription fees 2019/2020 season' attached to this mail. Please also note that the usual discounts will still apply if you have 2 or more children playing in the club. If you have any questions regarding the fees - and or payment options - please contact Jenny Harman (Treasurer) on 07715 993325 or [treasurer@wateringburyfc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@wateringburyfc.co.uk)

We have u-turned and decided to scrap the 200 club draw altogether - previously advertised as a compulsory entry - and will be allocating the whole of the additional membership fee increase into facility and equipment improvements for the children.

We have a number of ongoing and larger one-off expenses in the not too distant future, however we have tried to make the increase as minimal as possible. We would also like to reiterate that the club has grown significantly over the last years and we need your continued support to ensure that we can sustain this going forward. Currently we rely on a handful of volunteers but we would welcome additional help if you can spare the time. Any additional donations, fundraising ideas or sponsorship would be very welcome indeed. Please liaise with your respective coaches and discuss with them ways in which you can help.

We do have a great football club for our children and as I say, it has grown significantly in a short space of time. We have coaches and committee members who give up a lot of time and we also have very supportive parents and a great bunch of children, who always look like they love playing for Wateringbury. WFC has been supported during its infancy by other organisations and one of the most significant has been the Wateringbury Club (previously known as the Wateringbury Working Men's Social Club). For those of you who aren't aware of the Wateringbury Club, it is located on Tonbridge Road a short walk from the Post Office. Ive attached a link below for your reference.

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Wateringbury+Club/@51.2559253,0.4203087,16z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x2d66b18956286c60!8m2!3d51.2558986!4d0.4222184>

On a personal note I am very appreciative of all the support we are given, however the Wateringbury Club has consistently gone above and beyond to support us during times when we were struggling with the ongoing costs that a club like ours inherently encounters. I can't tell you the number of times that they have offered to host our events, with no venue charge, donated refreshments for events and have been so flexible and helpful when we have needed a venue for meetings. They have even given us our very own wall so that we can showcase the football clubs achievements.

The Wateringbury Club has been a feature of the village for 40 years, but like many local businesses has suffered in recent times. Dwindling numbers in membership and growing overhead costs have taken the club close to closure. Whilst many businesses are under pressure the committee would be remiss if they didn't do everything they could to help promote the Wateringbury Club and try and encourage you all to be part of, what could be a fantastic place to meet, socialise and celebrate the amazing football club and village we are lucky to be part of.

Unusually for these types of businesses, the Wateringbury Club is child friendly, welcoming families. In fact they have plans to develop their facilities in order to provide a children's room to supplement their pool, snooker, darts equipment and Sky/BT sports channels to better entertain the younger generations whilst the older ones enjoy a coffee, pint, natter or all of the above.

As our children get older I would like to think that the Wateringbury Club could be a safe, friendly and a local place for them to get together and socialise but we need to work as a community in order to make sure it is there for generations to come. Much like the need to use the post Office as much as possible as it would be awful if we lost this as well.

Despite its current hardship and in an effort to boost attendance and membership, the Wateringbury Club have offered a fantastic Family membership opportunity to all members of WFC. The have offered this at only £20 per family. Just to put this into context normally the cost to join the club is £25 per person. You will see that this has also been identified on your membership application

form and I really hope you will opt into this offer. Ultimately this on its own may not be enough to save the Wateringbury Club, but if we can all make an extra effort to use its facilities then we may be able to avert disaster.

Some of you may not be local or see yourself using the club very often, however I hope that given the historical involvement of the Wateringbury Club with our football club and the village in general you will still choose to make a payment as a symbolic donation.

If you have already paid your membership based on the original end of season communication then please do not worry. We can ensure that this can be adjusted accordingly depending on the choice that you may or may not wish to opt into. Please contact Jenny if you require further clarification. Obviously the committee is hopeful you will opt into the additional membership.

We really do need your membership forms back asap please, especially as there are extra admin requirements this coming season with the new Football Association requirement that states that all children in the UK who are playing grassroots football must be entered onto their database. This is completely new to John, Jenny and I and so we really need to allocate sufficient time.

Finally we have not had an Annual General Meeting previously and I can only apologise for this, but our growth has been pretty rapid and it has just passed us by. We would like to correct this and so with this mind we are planning to hold an AGM on Wednesday 4th September at The Wateringbury Club. During this meeting we would like to encourage parent representation from each age group onto the committee. This will ensure that we can get a better representation of the wider membership, spread the load in terms of the day to day administration of each age group, tap into your own unique experiences/skills and further improve our communication. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible and will forward on further details nearer the time,

Up the Bury

Tony