

A warm welcome to Sir Joseph Hood Memorial playing fields, home of Motspur Park FC



I'm glad you have joined on us this very special occasion. We all have a connection to the First World War and The Royal British Legion and Motspur Park FC are encouraging everyone to recognise the legacy that generation left us. Wear your poppy with pride and join us in saying 'Thank You'.

Every year our teams have worn the stick on poppies on their shirts but this year being the 100 year centenary since the end of the First World War we decided to go that extra mile. Come and purchase a Poppy, a raffle ticket or even a cake, all money raised will go to The Royal British Legion. Anyone wishing to purchase a stick on poppy (whilst stocks last) can do so by the cake stall.

A couple of years ago we surveyed all boys and girls at the club asking them a variety of questions. One of the questions asked was how do you feel when parents (your own or another players) shout out telling you what to do. A staggering 88% said they did not like it. Exact comments included - "I get scared and don't want the ball" and "I just want them to shut up". I for one was shocked by these survey results and it really made me think.

Ask yourself the following questions:

Why do you coach / manage a team?

Why do you take your Son or Daughter to matches?

The answers should be simple. Coaches are there to coach and teach children about the game, teach them life skills and develop individuals into being part of a team. Building their confidence, letting them flourish and make their own decisions rightly or wrongly on the pitch. Parents are there to support their Son or Daughter and the team they play for, but not to coach. Would you go into your Son or Daughter's school and in front of their teacher tell the class what to do?

Today is about remembering all those that fought for our Country in the First World War, and giving the boys and girls the chance to play with freedom, to play and not worry about making mistakes and getting shouted at.

Please help make today a memorable occasion by joining us in this one off 'Silent side-line' weekend in partnership with Surrey County FA and the FA's #WeOnlyDoPositive and Respect campaigns.

Whether you're a parent or a coach we all do this to allow the boys and girls the chance to play football, so for today let the football do the talking.

Enjoy the day and please help us raise money for The Royal British Legion.



Silent Side-line in partnership with @SurreyFA #WeOnlyDoPositive

"The new FA respect campaign is all about creating positive experiences for all those involved in the grassroots game and we can all play our part when attending matches.

The silent weekend idea has been used up and down the country with great feedback received from players and spectators alike. This new environment is all about letting the football do the talking without any external influence on the players."

a. What does a Silent Side-line involve?

Encouraging all of the adults involved in mini and youth soccer to give some thought to the things they say and shout, whilst watching their young players take part in football.

b. Does a Silent Side-line mean total silence?

As close to this as possible. We appreciate it would be a little false, and probably not the thing that people want at football matches usually! However, for this weekend, we would like to only hear parents and spectators applauding good play from both teams, but really trying to keep communication to a minimum (no coaching/instructions please and certainly no comments for the ref or linos!!). We are also asking coaches to keep their instructions to an absolute minimum too e.g. if a player is injured or being asked to change position.

The whole idea is to let the children and young people play, free from the (often well-intended) pressures that can often come from the side-lines. The approach can also help in encouraging players to communicate with each other better; improving leadership and organising skills, thinking independently.

Get the message out to your coaches, teams, parents and spectators that you are taking part, all in the name of positivity and Respect.

FA mentoring program supports Motspur Park FC silent match day event



About the program

In 2013/14 the FA introduced a mentoring scheme designed to help grassroots coaches and clubs by allocating mentors to selected clubs. We work with coaches and clubs striving to improve coaching standards and match day experiences for all participants. There is no cost to the club as all time allocated is completely free. The mentor supports the coaches in their environment and helps with any specific challenges the coaches may have.

As well as the mentor spending time mentoring individual coaches the program also provides support and guidance to the club organisers/committee. Every club involved in the program is encouraged to consider the clubs philosophy and to create its own 'DNA'. Each club is asked to consider what they stand for, who they are, how they want to play, what qualities do they want to develop in their players, what is their approach to coaching in order to developing their players and importantly review how everyone involved in the club supports each other for the benefit of the children who are playing.

Motspur park FC DNA

I am delighted to have worked with MPFC and a number of the coaches for the last couple of seasons. It is especially pleasing that the club has embraced the concepts of the England 'DNA' and from this, has now created its own philosophy. This Motspur Park FC 'DNA' is almost ready for its official 'launch'.

A significant part of the clubs DNA has been shaped and driven from the results of the extensive player and parent survey that was conducted by the club.

One major outcome was how the players described in their own words the impact of supporters on the touch line on match days. Often providing (sometimes shouting) instructions, information etc. The players reported how this has a negative impact on them contrary to the best intentions of the supporters. These results are in line with national statistics and reflects the surveys that show how 90% of young players perform better in response to positive reinforcement . This is one reason why The FA recently launched #weonlydopositive as an the update to the Respect campaign.

Today the FA Mentoring program is delighted to support MOTSPUR PARK FC who are taking this a step further by introducing todays silent match day event in a attempt to help all the players have an enhanced playing experience. We want to encourage players to try skills and take risks without any fear inn order to help with their on going development.

What better day to undertake this than on Remembrance Sunday when, as a mark of great respect, its an opportunity to remember and honour those who have sacrificed themselves to secure and protect our freedom by asking spectators to remain quiet throughout the whole match. The FA Mentoring program today is being represented by Kevin England who is the Regional Coach Mentor for the South East of England, and Gideon Jackson , an FA Mentor, who has also recently started supporting coaches at Motspur Park FC

Enjoy the football and please do your best to support this initiative as I do.

Kevin Finnerty
FA Mentor.