

# Salisbury Rovers FC

## Welcome to Salisbury Rovers!!

“At the foundation of youth development is nurturing creativity and the pursuit of one’s passion without the fear of failure. This is accomplished in environments that rather than shepherd a child’s thought patterns, allow them to explore and learn within a natural process of growth. This can take on many forms within the formal process of education and home environments, each with its own merit but none likely as valuable as time for ‘free play’.

Free play, once rife in our world when children would play safely in our neighbourhood playgrounds and streets, is now so terribly rare and sadly it has been of great detriment to our society. This must change and can quickly do so as we encourage ‘free play’ within welcoming and safe sporting environments.

Free play, for the children and for our future.”

John K. Davies

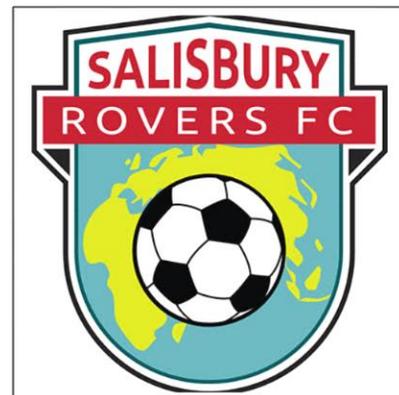
<http://twitter.com/renegadestyle>

<http://www.renegadetraining.com>



It is two months since we launched. In that short time, we have seen the club grow from strength to strength with children (girls and boys) of all ages and abilities joining us.

We hope this newsletter will keep you up to date with our plans.



## Upcoming Events

### June 4

1-3 pm. Football event outside Tesco Extra.

### June 11

Celebrate Euro 2016 at our club session 10am to 1pm, Portway pitch. £3.50 including picnic.

### August 2

10.30: Salisbury Rovers & Salisbury City Council: **Free** session on Bemerton Heath

### August 9

10.30: Salisbury Rovers & Salisbury City Council: **Free** session on Bemerton Heath

### August 16

10.30: Salisbury Rovers & Salisbury City Council: **Free** session on Bemerton Heath

### August 23

10.30: Salisbury Rovers & Salisbury City Council: **Free** session on Bemerton Heath

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## Football Foundation Grant

We are delighted to announce we have been awarded a sought after Football Foundation grant for our plans to grow the girls' game in Salisbury. We believe that girls' football is just as important as boys' and we are thrilled to have achieved the funding to let us prove this!



## Coaching at Salisbury Rovers FC

The special message on our front page was sent to us by world-renowned coach, John K Davies and it reflects our aims. Salisbury Rovers FC has a distinct model. We value 'free play'. Our priority is not adult egos or mini-soccer wins. It's kids. We want kids to play football, we want to keep them playing, and we want to give them a good environment to play in.

Our club sessions are at the core of what we do. There's a ball for every child and lots of time to play. It can look messy but we are not 'training' kids for a Sunday league match. We won't be putting kids in rigid positions or telling 6 year olds they need to 'play back'. That is a short-term approach focused on match wins. Our focus is long-term: on developing children's skills and encouraging confidence and creativity. We put the person before the player as this benefits all kids whatever their age or ability. A core part of this is that we allow plenty of time for 'free play'; for kids just to get on with playing a game without adult direction. So if you see our coaches doing and saying nothing, don't worry, it's deliberate!



The RESPECT agenda is also fundamental to everything we do. Respect for each other, for our coaches, for our community.

We will enter teams in leagues (see below) but our focus is development. Everyone loves winning but scorelines won't tell you how a player is developing or whether they're enjoying the game. Development and enjoyment go together and they are our core priorities. We also believe there is no place for selection in grassroots football as it is based on adult priorities and not children's needs. **All** our players will get equal match time and experience in every position. Our club coaches are Keano and Jack. They are happy to talk to you at any time about what they are doing. Salisbury Rovers Club officers (who are DBS checked) are also on hand to support our coaches and to answer questions.

## Kids' views

There is no point in running a kids' football club if we don't put kids' views at the heart of everything we do. We want to create a positive environment where all children feel valued and where they feel confident enough to share concerns or raise suggestions. We know kids will come up with ideas we have never even thought of! We will establish a Players' Council but we know this is not every child's cup of tea so we have drafted a questionnaire that all kids can complete. We look forward to hearing from you. Salisbury Rovers FC is *their* club.



## Portsmouth FC Youth Coach Mikey Harris talks to Salisbury Rovers

In April, our coach mentor, Mikey Harris (ex-Salisbury City FC manager, current Portsmouth FC Youth team coach and owner of [Wellow Soccer Academy](#)) talked to us about coaching children and young people. Mikey has been instrumental in helping us develop our philosophy and practice.

Mikey stressed that love of the game drives development at every level and that all players need a playing environment which is physically and emotionally safe. Youth sport is a way of forming friendships and learning important social and life skills as well as winning matches. Coaches have a massively important role in supporting children's' all-round development. They can have a huge impact on children with their conduct and words. They must lead by example.

Mikey highlighted several factors as being crucial for youth development including: equal playing time for all kids; allowing players to gain experience in all positions on the pitch; and an end to adult direction from the sidelines.



## Pro-skills coaching summer day event



We are looking into the possibility of holding a football day in the summer holidays with Mark Senior and his coaches of Pro-Skills Coaching – Mark's website is [here](#). Mark has helped us a great deal with advice and suggestions as we have started out. He is a Manchester Utd Academy coach who runs his own coaching company (Pro Skills Coaching) and he is highly regarded for his work in promoting free play and street soccer in an effort to increase the skills development and confidence of all children. These quotes from an [article](#) by Mark will give you a sense of what he is about:

*"Why don't we produce a Sanchez, Messi, Iniesta? I think we do but we see them stuck on the left wing tracking back in the industrial team setup being told not to be fancy..... the environment of games has become better but the shouting hasn't and the instruction ... is constant. Matches usually follow a pattern, the nervous tension of the coach usually gets the better of them in my opinion, as if they're being judged for some reason.*

*With children playing matches from under 6 now, the result outweighs the practice earlier than it did previously. The notion of any tactics (however trivial or basic) at u6 compared to u11 has reduced 4/5 years of free play or playground play as it were. The dad and son park kickabout now has in many cases changed to a formal junior game. The dad's tips can now only be passed on via several others or shouted over a group. In a one on one situation compared to a 1 on 12 situations and in a game, instruction or help becomes obsolete and useless and could well mean both techniques and relationships could suffer. A dad may have taught the striking of a ball for example now they shout "get in your position."*

We think the kids would love a day event with Pro Skills Coaching so please let us know if your child would be interested in attending a summer day session. We would need 40 children to attend and the cost presently would be £15 per child but we are looking at ways to reduce this so don't let that put you off expressing an interest.

## No child 'priced out' of football! Salisbury Rovers FC working with Salisbury City Council to bring free football to the City



We are working in partnership with Matt le Tissier's Natural Coaching Company and Salisbury City Council to provide four free sessions in August. The sessions will be held on the green outside Bemerton Heath Community Centre at 10 am on 2, 9, 16 and 23 August. Funding for the event has kindly been provided by Irwin Mitchell solicitors.

We are working hard with the Council, schools, County FA and others to obtain funding to roll out free football to other areas. We try to keep our fees as low as possible but encourage any parent to talk to us in confidence if cost is an issue. No child should ever be 'priced out' of football.

### June events

**Saturday 4 June at 1-3pm** Tesco Extra, Southampton rd: we have been invited by Tesco to hold a fun football session outside the store. Join us if you can.



**Saturday 11 June 10am -1pm** Portway pitch, off Stratford rd: Celebrate England's first game with us with a club session and picnic. The event will cost £3.50. For those registered players paying by standing order, we suggest a donation of £1. There is a raffle and auction with some fantastic prizes. More details on the [website](#).



### Teams, leagues and managers

We are looking to form teams for next year's leagues. Please do let us know if your child would be interested in playing in a team or if you would be interested in managing a team. Please note it is not our policy to appoint parents to manage their own child's team. We would support you to become a manager and get coaching qualifications but it is important to note that, at match time, our manager's won't be shouting from the sidelines. We want to encourage players to make their own decisions. There will also be equal playing time and rotated positions. The scoreline is never as important as individual development.

Please note that children **cannot** play organised football matches until they turn 6. This is an FA rule. Children will also need to register with the club to be able to play for the club.

## Registrations and subscriptions

We need registration information for all children who attend our sessions.

**Registered players:** If you want to become a registered player – you will find a registration form [here](#). Our club subscriptions are £120 per year. You can pay half yearly £60 or £10 per month. This can be paid by standing order (found [here](#)). Paying by standing order helps the club's long-term planning. Children who are registered with the club and pay subscriptions are eligible to play in matches for the Club and to reduced prices for events.

**Non-registered players:** For children who haven't registered and who are not paying by standing order, the price of sessions is £2.50. We still need you to complete a form to ensure we have all the necessary information to meet your child's needs. A club session registration form can be found [here](#).

**Please remember: we encourage any parent to talk to us in confidence if cost is an issue. No child should ever be 'priced out' of football.**

## Future club sessions

Our future club sessions at the Portway are:

Saturday 28 May 10-12

Saturday 4 June 10-12

Saturday 11 June 10-1

Saturday 18 June 10-12

Saturday 25 June 10-12

Saturday 2 July 10-12

The pitch then closes for the summer and we can move to Sarum Academy at the same time on Saturdays. We will confirm dates soon.



Please remember you can contact us at any time:

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