About

Morton in the Community is a registered charity (Charity No. SC040819), which uses the power of sport, and the Greenock Morton Football Club brand, to deliver a number of projects across the Inverclyde area. The organisation has been operational since March 2013.

We help to create a healthier and safer region by working closely with key partners in the public and private sectors to create inclusive programmes that engage people of all ages and abilities. These range from physical literacy classes in nursery schools through to mass participation coaching sessions for 2-16 year olds, employability training for people of all ages, promoting healthy lifestyles, and physical and mental well-being sessions. We engage more than 1200 people every single week in our programmes as we aim to be ‘The Heartbeat of Inverclyde’.

Both our Boys and Girls Pathways are mass participation programmes aimed to providing a safe and inclusive environment to all players. We strive to offer equal opportunities to all our players in an environment focused upon providing a positive experience in football and wider physical activity.

Organisational Structure

11-a-side Boys Pathway Coordinator: Stewart Wonnacott – stewart@mortoncommunity.net

Small Sided Boys Pathway Coordinator: Dean McKinnon – dean@mortoncommunity.net

Girls Pathway Coordinator: Colin McEachnie – colin@mortoncommunity.net

Football Projects Officer: Lee Mitchell – lee@mortoncommunity.net

Direct Debits, Training and Equipment

The direct debit covers all training sessions and matchday activity throughout the year, as well as providing all training kit. This fees also contribute to footballing costs such as public liability insurance, league registration fees and coach education. All squads train twice per week at various venues across Inverclyde, utilising grass pitches in the summer and astroturf pitches throughout the rest of the year.

Fundraising

Throughout the year, Morton in the Community will undertake fundraising events, such as sponsored walks and end of season presentation nights. These fundraising events are vital to our organisation, and we encourage all participants to get involved. Individual squads may carry out individual fundraising activities throughout the season to pay for specific pieces of kit, equipment or squad activities.

Presentations

The club organise and host a presentation night for every squad once per year after the conclusion of their season. Girls presentations are generally held in December, Small Sided Boys presentations are generally held in January/February, and 11-a-side Boys presentations are generally held in May. Squads may organise additional presentations or fundraising events throughout the year.

Code of Conduct

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour in the game. Parents and carers have a great influence on children’s enjoyment and success in football. Children play football because they first and foremost love the game – it’s FUN. Remember children’s football is a time for them to develop and learn. We want them to succeed but not at all costs. Play your part by supporting your child and observe the Code of Conduct at all times. We require the following actions from all spectators who attend our matches:

I will:

* Remember that children play for fun
* Applaud effort and good play
* Always respect the match officials’ decisions
* Remain outside the field of play or within the Designated Spectators’ Areas
* Let the coach do their job and not confuse the players by telling them what to do
* Encourage your child, and others, or be quiet. Praise effort and performance, not results
* Encourage the players to respect the opposition, referee and officials
* Avoid criticising a player for making a mistake – mistakes are part of learning
* Never engage in, or tolerate, offensive, insulting, or abusive language or behaviour
* Parents must develop an appropriate supportive relationship with both the coach and their child based on mutual trust and respect
* Support the coach’s decisions and discuss any concerns directly with the coach

If attendees are found to be in breach of these guidelines, they may face actions ranging from written warnings up to and including expulsion from attending training sessions and matchday activity. If you are concerned by the behaviour of any parent/carer at any time, please contact your Pathway Coordinator.

Volunteers

Volunteers are key to everything we do at MITC. We are always looking to add to our team of volunteers and offer a range of benefits to volunteers. The main volunteering roles in our Teams structure are as follows:

Squad Coach - Our coaches plan and deliver coaching sessions and take charge of the squad during matchday activity. We offer support to our coaches to meet compliance requirements, by supporting coaches through coach education and tailored coaching development plans.

Parent Helper - Parent helpers assist our squads at training and matchdays by providing additional adult supervision. We can assist parent helpers transition into coaching if they so wish.

First Aider - First aiders are on hand to provide first aid assistant to any child at training and on matchdays. The club can provide first aid training if required.

Parent Representative - Our parent representatives are vital for ensuring constant communication between squads, Pathway Coordinators and the club. Parent Reps attend periodic meetings with the club, providing feedback from parents to the club.

If you have a few spare hours and would like to be part of our amazing volunteering team, please contact your Pathway Coordinator.

Safeguarding

MITC have a dedicated Child Wellbeing Team who oversee all aspects of child protection within MITC. Our CWT are on hand to offer advice, support and mediation to all participants, parents/carers and volunteers at the club. Your initial point of contact for the CWT is your Pathway Coordinator.