**A new way to pay your match fees!**

As you are probably aware, it takes a great amount of valuable volunteer time, dedication and organisation to run a sports club like ours. One area that consumes much of our time, and also causes a lot of hassle for everyone, is the collection of weekly match fees and annual subs. This season the Club will be abandoning its ancient tradition of writing down who has paid their match fees on a piece of paper (sometimes crumpled, sometimes not) and will be recording all this information on a new app.

Whilst this change is one of those behind the scenes things that doesn’t normally affect most of you (it will after all still be the captains collecting the money and recording who has paid), it does give us the opportunity to add an additional form of payment for those that either forget to bring cash, don’t carry cash and prefer to pay electronically.

We will be using the Slate app (https://slateapp.co.uk/) which offers the Club the ability to create a direct debit payment request if you don’t pay by cash, you then authorise this request using the free app and your match fees are taken from your account automatically.

In the coming week you will receive an email invite from Slate, inviting you to download and register with Slate. It takes two minutes to do so and would appreciate you getting this done by the first game if possible. If you have any problems with getting set up on Slate, please email help@Slateapp.co.uk for assistance.

Thank you for your support on this and helping to take the club forward

Questions:
1. Can I not just pay cash?
Whether you choose to use this functionality is entirely up to you, if you prefer to pay cash you can still do so. But we’re hoping most of you will recognise the convenience of paying via the Slate app and not having to drive past the cash point on the way to the game. It also saves a load of hassle for already busy club volunteers!

2. Is it secure / does the club get my bank details?
Slate partners with Gocardless which is a known electronic payment provider similar to Paypal. The systems are secure and encrypted to international standards. All payment is dealt with by Gocardless, the Club and Slate do not have access to any of your bank details.

3. Can the club take money without my permission?
No, the system works by sending you a request to authorise the payment which you do via the free app on your phone, if the request isn’t authorised then no payment is made. If you have a child playing for an adult team, you just need to sign them up with a unique email address for each child but you can use the same bank details for multiple people. They can then log into the app and pay their match fees or you can do it if you prefer.

4. Is this going to cost me anything?
No, there is a transaction fee but the club will be absorbing this and not passing it on to members.

5. It all sounds very complicated and I’m really not very good with technology?
Having tested the system it’s all quite simple however we appreciate not everyone is as comfortable with technology as others. If you are struggling to get set up just email help@slateapp.co.uk and they will help you.

If you have any further questions do please ask, just send them to xxxxxx and thank you for your help in taking the club forward.