



# Hilton Harriers FC

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Ref: Dog Control Order

Dear Parents, Guardians, Players and Volunteers

We make numerous requests every week to dog owners regarding the rules that apply at The Mease regarding keeping dogs on leads. The general response is often abusive and they claim they didn't know any restriction applied.

To avoid further confusion we have decided to write to everyone and this letter will be held on the club website for reference.

The Mease is covered by a Dog Control Order, issued by South Derbyshire District Council after consultation with both the Parish Council and Hilton Harriers. The Control Order states that all dogs at The Mease Pavilion Hilton must be kept on leads, failure to comply is an offence and can result in a fine of up to £1000.

This order, along with signs regarding 'Picking Up' after your dogs are clearly signed at the entrance gate and on the Mease Pavilion. See below.



There are several reasons for the Control Order;

- 1) To try and ensure we limit the amount of dog mess on the pitches, caused by irresponsible dog walkers who let their pets off the lead and then fail to keep an eye on them.
- 2) Some dog owners walk their pets in the dark, so unless you have them on a lead you won't know where to pick up.
- 3) Not everyone is comfortable around dogs and many children and adults are scared when dogs run up to them.
- 4) We need to ensure we offer a safe environment for the members of the club and dogs and their mess can be a hazard.

It becomes almost impossible for us to enforce this restriction with members of the public when our own coaches, parents and volunteers can be seen to completely ignore the rules even when asked to comply.

We understand that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible and the pets are well behaved but unfortunately we have had too many incidents recently of owners who have become abusive when asked to comply and many just refuse. Some owners have been asked on numerous occasions to put their dogs on leads and still either refuse to comply or do so for a few minutes and then take it off again. The CCTV on The Mease does cover the vast majority of the playing area and we will use this to support the Control Order if necessary and also to report abusive and threatening behaviour.

Please take this as a formal request from the Mease Pavilion Committee and the Hilton Harriers Committee to keep your dogs on leads at all times when you are at The Mease and maintain the safe environment for everyone.

Kind regards

Andrew Brooks  
Chairman

