



# England Exchange

## Blackbear United FC and St. Clement Danes



### Hosting Players - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### **Why is Blackbear United asking for HOST families?**

Every other year, for several years now, Blackbear United and our friends from St. Clement Danes School (SCD) in England have created a 10 to 14 day "soccer" exchange program. We send soccer players and staff to Watford, England during April Break hosted by SCD, and we host their youth players and staff during the summer typically in July.

In order to make these trips more affordable to more players we (both groups) house players and coaches on both sides of the Atlantic. This experience is richly rewarding for everyone involved. And a heck of a lot of fun.

#### **How many players should we host?**

Being in a foreign country is a little intimidating to teens, even though they may appear confident at times. Therefore it is recommended/requested that at least two players be hosted per family. We have had families host up to five players. However, two English players per family provide them with a level of comfort and companionship in strange surroundings.

#### **How much time is required?**

Not much. There are events and practices planned and we can work out all details, including carpools to get the players back and forth. As far as meals and other activities, there is usually one or two days of down time (no scheduled activity) that will allow you, if you are able, to show your youth around.

#### **Must I occupy every moment of their time:**

No. If you have a deck of cards, video games, or DVD's handy, they're good to go (especially in the evening). Your children will have no problem finding things to do with the English players.

#### **We both work, how will we get the players where they have to go?**

You can let us know your schedule and we will make arrangements to have the English players picked up at either your house or a designated location/drop off zone.

#### **What do the UK kids like to eat?**

They'll eat almost everything. Almost. The kids will need to have something for breakfast and snacks available, including drinks (Mountain Dew was a huge hit in years past). Dinners should include whatever you are having ... simply make a few extra portions. Many days and nights there will be meals served for the group at barbecues in various locations.

#### **The drinking age in the UK is much lower, can they drink alcohol here?**

**ABSOLUTELY NOT!** The drinking rules in the USA are in effect and alcohol should not be provided to or consumed by the English players.

#### **Do we have to have BB players of the same age group/ same gender?**

No. As a matter of fact, younger players (a year or two) will have a lot of fun hosting and they will learn a tremendous amount, too. Gender doesn't matter either.



### **Are there events that the players need to attend?**

Yes, there will be scheduled events/practices, picnics, etc. Each family will receive an itinerary.

### **What will we do with the players during down time?**

Do the things you like to do, it's MAINE ... vacation land! Many of our visitors will never have hiked, biked, seen an ATV, dirt bike, swam in an outdoor pool or lake, fished, golfed, played miniature golf, visited a batting cage or ridden a go-cart. They love to shop at the mall and love our prices. Visits to the coast or Acadia are always popular.

### **Will the hosts get to play soccer with the English players?**

Yes. We always provide a friendly game where the players and hosts get to play with each other in a tournament setting. It's loads of fun!!

### **Do the players have their own money?**

Yes, and they love to go shopping at the mall. They find our prices to be reasonable and usually want to go to the mall several times. Host families are not expected to purchase items for visiting players.

### **Do they speak english?**

Yes, actually they speak proper English, the Queen's English.

### **Will they need to wash clothes?**

Most likely.

### **Will the kids contact home?**

The players should call home to notify parents of their arrival and are likely to call home or e-mail their folks, and their parents will most likely e-mail them or want to call them. The kids usually have e-mail accounts they can log onto from your home computer, so it's very easy for them to communicate with their parents back in England. We will supply a list of host contact numbers and emails to the English families prior to their visit and visa versa.

### **What is the difference in money?**

The Great Britain Pound (GBP) is about 1.6 times stronger than the US Dollar (USD).  
100.00 GBP = 162.889 USD

### **What do I do if there is a problem?**

Contact MJ Ball at (207) 991-8940 who is the trip coordinator. From time to time, host families and players do not get along and a change needs to be made. If there is an emergency or a player needs to go to the hospital, each player has travel insurance coverage for the trip. Don't hesitate to call with a question at anytime.

### **Will my son/daughter get the chance to go to England?**

Yes, each April Break, we send a U16 or older team to England. We send both boys and girls teams based on player and team availability.

### **How can I learn more about St. Clement Danes?**

Visit them on the web at <http://www.stclementdanes.org.uk/>

### **How can I learn more about Blackbear United's trips to England?**

Visit our web page dedicated to the England Exchange by visiting <http://www.blackbearunited.com/england.htm>

**Please visit us on the Web - [www.blackbearunited.com](http://www.blackbearunited.com)**

