



Welcome to the first edition to members and non-members alike of what we plan on being a regular publication throughout the season. The idea is to keep you informed of what is happening within the Association during the course of the season.

First of all I will explain the aims of the Association.

They are, firstly, to organise coach travel to EVERY away game and, secondly, to organise fund-raising events for the benefit of the Football Club. Over the last few seasons we have donated over £25,000 to the Club to help them clear off some of the debts. This has often taken the form of buying equipment that is needed, either for the fitness room or for maintenance work around the Stadium.

THE COMMITTEE

The Association committee is made up of the following people, voted on by the members at the AGM :

John Derben (Chairman)

Lynden Finch (Secretary)

Keith Blagbrough (Treasurer)

Sandie Derben (Social & Fundraising)

Rena Frontalski (Travel)

Marion Lunnon (Social)

Graham Roberts (Membership & Travel)

Steve Phelps (Website)

and myself, Dave Finch.

We are presided over by our ever-active President Harold Lunnon. The only problem is that none of us are getting any younger ! We would dearly like some more youthful people to join us. Anyone interested please contact Lynden lyndenfinch@hotmail.co.uk



SOCIAL EVENTS

These are superbly organised by Sandie, with the help of Marion and Jenny Priest.

This season's dates are:

Thursday, 13 October - AGM, where, after the main event, Gareth Ainsworth, Richard Dobson, Andrew Howard and Trevor Stroud have been invited to talk and answer questions.

Friday, 11 November - Race Night, with MC John and Tote run by Lynden and Dave.

Friday, 13 January - Quiz Night, with Question Master Tim Hillier

Friday, 10 March - Annual Dinner. This is a relaxing evening wining and dining with invited guests Gareth, Dobbo and Roger Mott.

Tickets for all of these events are available from Sandie 01494 441145. There is always a raffle at each that is run by Marion and Harold, plus often a sale of surplus stock from the Clubshop.

TRAVEL

All members travel with a discount off the non-members' price. Three away trips will pay for the membership fee of £12, so if you go regularly it makes sense to join the Association.

Hot and cold drinks are available both ways.

There is also a draw to win money on the first Wycombe goal scorer, while there is a vote for the man of the match (Jenny Priest's brainchild). Over the course of the season the votes are counted up and the overall winner receives our Away Player of the Season Trophy (Kindly donated by Roger Mott)

Even if the result is not a good one you can still have an enjoyable day, especially at the likes of Carlisle, Hartlepool, Mansfield and York (Although sadly not this season) where we always get a good welcome.

Carlisle is actually our next trip. The coach will leave Adams Park at 7 am



and the cost for adult members is £33, senior members £32, junior members £31. Non-members pay a flat price of £37. Although a long day out, it is a nice trip this time of the year. There is some wonderful scenery once you get north of the Manchester area. Although some supporters tend to use the Rugby Club next door, there is a nice bar and lounge called the Sunshine Suite at the ground which gives a warm welcome to visiting supporters. This is upstairs around the far side of the ground at the back of the home stand.

For all of our trips see our website at www.owwsa.co.uk. Coach bookings can be made with Rena 01494 520179 or Graham 07876 267301 or by person in the Vere Suite before each home match.

ON THE FIELD-THE SEASON SO FAR

After our disappointing end to last season, when lack of goal scoring became a telling factor, it was hoped that this season would be better in that respect. Unfortunately, so far, this hasn't been the case.

Things looked promising during the summer with the signings of the legend that is Ade Akinfenwa plus Dayle Southwell (54 goals for Boston in his last two seasons), Paris Cowan-Hall and Myles Weston. Along with keeper Scott Brown, defender Will De Haviland and forward Nick Freeman, also from non-league football at Histon we seemed to have assembled a good squad.

However, both Cowan-Hall and Freeman, along with Paul Hayes and Danny Rowe, were injured in pre-season (do we play too many games?) On top of this, Weston lasted all of ten minutes at Crawley in our opening game before limping off, while Brown and Luke O'Nien also sustained injuries!

After a reasonable first half, when



we had shots blocked in the area, we deteriorated after Crawley grabbed a goal on the break.

An excellent display against Bristol City in the League Cup at Adams Park followed. Only a string of saves from their goalkeeper, Richard O'Donnell, denied us a well-deserved win.

Two more home games came in quick succession. A last-gasp goal from Anthony Stewart saw a win over Grimsby, although I'm convinced the big fella's header was already over the line.

He soon opened his account with an early goal against Accrington, where we once more faded after a good first half.

Next, in atrocious conditions more in keeping with November, we gained a hard-fought point at Blackpool.

As the injuries continued to mount up though we then gave a bitterly disappointing display to lose at home to old foes Colchester.

This was followed by our heaviest

defeat for some time at Luton. It extended our winless run away from home to 12 games. Hopefully, we can soon get some of our players back from injury and move back up the league table.

The one bright spot in all of this has been the 400th appearance of Matt Bloomfield, who made his debut against Rushden & Diamonds on 28th December 2003. In this day and age of football mercenaries, this is a wonderful achievement. Well done Matt !



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As many of you that know me are aware I like to travel around to watch football at all levels and a few weeks ago I went down to Cardiff to see the University team there play their first ever home match in the Welsh Premier League, after their promotion from the Welsh League.

In goal for their opponents, Bala Town, was Alex Lynch who played so well for us during the play-offs of 2015. Then last season, whilst looking to establish himself after Matt Ingram's departure, he sustained an injury at Plymouth that would keep him out for the remainder of the season. Although of course, to this day, the Plymouth supporters still claim he was time wasting!

Unfortunately this game was very poor and, in keeping with a lot of what I have seen this season, there were very few chances created. Alex did make one superb close-range save though and looked very safe and assured throughout to help his side gain a 1-0 win.

FOOTBALL MATTERS

Please note that the opinions in this section are mine alone and not those of the Committee as a whole.

It seems that each season the powers that be come up with crazy ideas to spoil our wonderful game. This summer they have surpassed themselves!

First of all there is the renaming (or should I say re-branding) of the Football League to the EFL. Why? Ever since its formation in 1888 it has been known as the Football League and nobody has ever seen the need to alter this and I still don't. It's just change for changes sake. I also wonder how Cardiff and Newport supporters feel about playing in the English Football League!

Then there is the madness that is the Football League Trophy with the inclusion of Academy teams. On the League's website it is stated that it is to help the development of young players for the England team. Most of these Academies however include several foreign players, while



competition rules say that only six of the starting line-up has to be under 21!

Can someone explain to me therefore how this helps the England set-up. Also the format is made up of groups of four so each club will play at least three midweek games. This flies in the face of the League's new idea of an extra division in the League, with just 20 teams in each. One of their reasons is to cut down on money-losing midweek games!! The last straw for me is that if a group game ends in a draw, there will be a penalty shoot-out for an extra point! I personally see no value in a game between ourselves and any team's Academy side and am not alone in this. There are a lot of Clubs' supporters out there who intend to boycott this competition as there has been no consultation with them by their Clubs and they don't want to see Academy teams. Even a lot of the Premier teams' supporters are against it. It would be interesting to hear your views.

My final grouse is that if a FA Cup tie goes to extra time teams can bring

on a fourth substitute. The FA website states that this will bring intrigue and excitement to the game. How on earth do they work that one out ? In light of the injury problems that we have had both last season and this, teams are lucky that they have enough players on the bench to bring on an extra sub!

Well, I hope you have enjoyed this first edition. If you have any comments on any of the content or if there is anything you wish to see included, please contact me at dfinch105@btinternet.com. I would be really glad to hear from you.

Dave Finch