



Welcome to the latest edition to members and non-members alike. If you enjoy reading this can you please pass it on to anyone who may not be aware of what the Association is all about.

SOCIAL EVENTS

We recently held our annual race night and, although numbers were down due to the F. A. organising an England game without consulting us first, we had a successful evening, raising in excess of £800 for the Football Club. There was a slight hiccup at the start when the commentary failed to work. However, John Derben and Chris Hubbard filled the breach in fine style, entertaining us with some witty remarks. Well done to you both !

Our next event is the Quiz Night on Friday, 13th January. Teams, with up to eight people, can be entered by contacting Sandie Derben (01494 441145). Cost is £5 per person.

There is a trophy for the winners, while the members of the team

finishing in last place receive our famous wooden spoons.

The Caledonian Suite (formerly the Vere Suite) will be open at 6.30 when food and drink will be available, while the quiz gets under way an hour later. Quizmaster and setter of questions is Tim Hillier.

TRAVEL

We have now received the proposed itinerary for the weekend in Morecambe, as follows:

Friday April 28th

Depart from Adams Park with a lunch stop en route.

Time permitting, a short stop in Blackpool before arriving in Morecambe. Three Nights at the Headway Hotel. Price includes breakfast, dinner, portorage, tea/coffee on arrival and a sherry reception before dinner. There is also nightly entertainment at the hotel.



Saturday April 29th
Breakfast, then free time and transfer to the match.

Dinner and entertainment in the hotel on return.

Sunday, April 30th.
After breakfast a full tour of the Lake District with lunch in Windermere.

Dinner and entertainment on return.

Monday May 1st
A leisurely breakfast before check out. There will be comfort breaks on the journey back to Wycombe. All this for £199. We have over 20 supporters booked already but need about 30 to make it viable. Who knows it could be an important weekend like Torquay, hopefully for a different reason! So don't miss out. A deposit of £25 per person is needed to secure your place.

Coming up now though, in what is a busy month, are two more away trips to Plymouth and Cheltenham respectively. So contact Rena (01494

520179 or 07702 348678) or Graham (07876 267301) or see them in the Caledonian Suite.

All details of the away trips can be found on our website at owwsa.co.uk.

Remember all bookings can be paid by card, which is proving popular.

Non-members must pay in advance.

KATH ABBOTT

A few weeks ago, Kath, who I believe is our oldest member, celebrated her 89th birthday. She saw her first game at Loakes Park when she was just five years old! An incredible record. Her father and grandfather before her were supporters, so it was a natural thing to follow in their footsteps.

I would love to hear from any of you out there who have a longstanding history of support.

I have a long way to go yet to match her, having seen my first game in December 1958 (A 5-1 win over



Romford in the Isthmian League), although I didn't become a regular until 1964.

Lynden also saw her first game in the 50s and has been a regular since 1966. Guess where we first met!

Please contact me with your story so I can include it in further newsletters.

PAUL WEST

It was sad to hear about the passing away of Paul West recently. He played for us between 1980 and 1984 and was one of the many local players signed by Mike Keen, joining from Flackwell Heath. He made his debut at Sutton on 30th August, 1980 in a 2-0 Isthmian League defeat and went on to make 110 appearances in all, scoring 6 goals. He was part of the team that won the Isthmian League in 1982/83. His father, Norman, also played for the Club back in the 1950s. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends.

ON THE FIELD

What a difference a month or so makes! My last article was written after we had lost at home to Barnet and found ourselves just two places off the bottom. However, Gareth had always maintained that once some of our injuries cleared up we would improve. How right he was! An excellent point at Doncaster (where we could easily have been dead and buried at half time) thanks to Matt Bloomfield's first ever brace of goals has been followed by four straight league wins with only one goal conceded.

This spell has seen us rise up the table into a play-off place. To cap it all there have been two excellent away wins in the F. A. Cup. The first of these at Portsmouth saw Joe Jacobson add to the lengthening list of players to make 100 appearances for us.

The game at Chesterfield saw us score five away from home for the first time since 4th January, 2003 when we won by the same scoreline in a league game at Northampton.



Stuart Roberts, coming on as a substitute for the injured Jonny Dixon, scored a hat-trick. Dixon, himself, had scored earlier while Michael Simpson grabbed the other goal. Roberts only scored one other goal in a total of 83 appearances for us! The last player to score three in a game for us was Stuart Beavon in a 4-1 win at Bury on 17th March 2012. That was a league game. He had also scored three earlier that same season against our friends from Bristol Rovers in the Football League Trophy, a game we won 3-1.

On the playing side, the highlight has been Scott Kashket and it's great news that we given him a long contract. He reminds me so much of another diminutive striker, Tim Langford, who was part of the squad that won promotion to the Football League in 1993. It would also be good if the loans of Jamal Blackman and Dominic Gape could be extended, as they get better each game.

The FA Cup draw was rather disappointing (no offence to the two clubs) so it looks like we will have to

wait until the fourth round for one of the big teams !

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

I'm sure a lot of you will remember Paul Dennis, who was the Club's regular photographer for years. Living in Maidstone, he travelled to every game (home and away) by public transport. Since severing his ties with the Club (I won't dwell on the reasons why) he has taken early retirement from his job in banking to concentrate on photography. Working for an agency he gets sent regularly to The Emirates, Stamford Bridge, The Valley, Griffin Park and Priestfield for big games and has many of his photographs printed in the daily papers. Every summer he attends the Toulon Tournament in France, in which England U-20s always compete. On this summer's trip he encountered Steve Brown, who coaches for the F. A. and Will Antwi, who does likewise for Chelsea. Lynden and I have kept in close contact with Paul and we meet every few weeks for a tour of London pubs (for which he has an amazing knowledge!)



On the ex-player front, while watching the National League (Conference) highlights on BT Sport I saw Hakan Hayrettin, who is now manager at Braintree. He played 38 times for us, scoring just once. What a goal that was though, a 40-yarder in a 3-2 win at Preston in November 1993 in our first season as a Football league Club.

Finally, wasn't it great to see Alfie Mawson and Kortney Hause as the centre-back partnership for England U-21s recently.

FOOTBALL MATTERS

The latest news on the ridiculously named Whole Game Solution, which I spoke about in the last edition, is that it has been put on hold for the time-being. First of all, due to the sheer greed of both the FA and the Premier League, a new TV deal has been struck to continue showing the FA Cup overseas, where it is still held in high esteem (unlike in England!). The main proviso is that games have to be played over the weekend. This scuppers the plan to play some rounds in midweek. Also,

because it therefore doesn't free up any weekends, the Football League's restructuring plan has been shelved. So good news all round. Let's hope they don't come up with any more hair-brained schemes in the near future and they also re-think the Football League Trophy for next season. I think the attendances so far have shown what most of us feel about it.

Mind you, all this pales into insignificance when you hear of the widespread abuse that youngsters have suffered at several clubs over a long period of time. Let us hope that no stone is left unturned to catch and punish these vile specimens (if still alive) and the clubs that have let them get away with it are sufficiently dealt with, even if it means closing them down. As a father of a son who played from the age of seven upwards and as a man who actually ran the team he played for and who got great satisfaction at watching all of the boys progress over the ensuing seasons, all of this sickens me.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

It was great news that was revealed at the recent Trust AGM that the money coming out of Jordon Ibe's transfer from Liverpool to Bournemouth has enabled the Club to clear the debt to Steve Hayes. Although not completely out of the woods we certainly seem to be heading in the right direction. Well done to all concerned !

Don't forget if any of you have any comments on the content of this newsletter or if there is anything you wish to see included, please contact me on 07484 723982 or mail me at dfinch105@btinternet.com I would be really glad to hear from you.

Dave Finch