



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 Dinner in the Caledonian (Vere) Suite and an excellent evening it was. As well as our invited guests, Gareth, Dobbo and Roger Mott, it was good to see tables involving the Club and Trust Boards and also the Ex-Players Association. On the former were Messrs Andrew Howard, Alan Cecil, David Cook, Nigel Kingston and Trevor Stroud. On the latter were Vince Faulkner, Keith Samuels, John Maskell, Alan Hutchinson and John

Bignell and it was good to get a chance to talk to them about old times.

**TRAVEL**

First of all I would like to say a big well done to all of my fellow committee members for their superb effort in organising the 15 coaches that went to White Hart Lane.



It was a great team effort to match that of the players and management on the day. An occasion to be proud of all round. There are just three more away trips as the season draws to a close, although there could be extra ones if we reach the play-offs. The next two are two of our closest. First up it is Leyton Orient on Saturday, 1st April.



We depart Adams Park at 12 o'clock and the cost for adult members is £14, senior members £13, junior members £12, while it is £18 across the board for non-members.

Then it's Barnet on Easter Monday, 17th April. Coach(es) leave at 12. 30 pm with all prices £1 lower than those for Orient. Lastly, it is our weekend at Morecambe. We do now have enough booked to warrant running, although there are still plenty of places available. Why not see the season out in style! Please note a second coach will run on the day of the match. All travel details are available on our website, at [www.owwsa.co.uk](http://www.owwsa.co.uk).

### **MEMBERS WITH LONGSTANDING RECORDS OF SUPPORT**

Ron Monk informed me that he saw his first game at Loakes Park in September 1945 after coming out of the Army, but can't remember the opposition.

I also had an Email from John Bartlett, who has over 60 years of support. Although he cannot remember his

first match, he does recall going to Doncaster in 1955 for the Amateur Cup semi-final in which we lost 1-0 to Bishop's Auckland. He goes on to say that he cannot claim continuous support, as he was a player himself for several years and also having a young family. Thankfully both of his sons have grown up being Blues through and through, so he obviously did a good job there!

Don't forget please contact me with your history of support. This is your newsletter so why not see your details in print.

### **ON THE FIELD**

What a difficult period it has been since my last newsletter. After the euphoria of that wonderful afternoon at White Hart Lane (I honestly thought Thommo's header had won it for us) we have certainly been brought down to earth and lost our play-off position, as well as a chance of a Wembley visit in the League Trophy. Unfortunately, six consecutive Tuesday night matches have taken their toll and we are back to the first few weeks of the season



with a lengthy injury list. The biggest blow being Scott Kashket. Apart from the Tottenham game, there was a superb defensive effort that protected our lead to gain a first-ever Football League win over Portsmouth. Otherwise it has been a struggle and we have had to rely on the Big Fella too much. We did show glimpses of our old self in the second half at Grimsby but then gave a tepid display against Blackpool. Thankfully, Jamal Blackman came to the rescue with his penalty save at the end. By the time that you read this we will have played our friends from Plymouth. Hopefully we will have obtained a good result for us.

During this period the following appearance milestones have been reached:



Sam Wood 200   Sido Jombati 100   Michael Harriman 100

Well done to each of those.

### R. I. P.

It has been a sad time recently. Following on from the death of Monty Seymour three of our ex-players have passed away. First of all, Jackie Tomlin, who was 88. He joined us at the start of the 1952/53 season from Oxford City and played his last game in the 1960/61 season. In total he played 221 competitive games, scoring 71 goals and was a regular in the side that won the Isthmian League title in 1955/56 and 1956/57. That latter season also saw an appearance at Wembley Stadium in the Final of the FA Amateur Cup, which we lost 3-1 to Bishop Auckland. He was a good cricketer as well and I got to know him when, in my last year at school in 1966 I scored for High Wycombe CC, for whom he was playing. He also played 14 times for Buckinghamshire in the Minor Counties Championship. Then when the Ex-Players' Association was formed he became their President and was still attending games at Adams Park until just shortly before his death.



Next, it was Paul McCarthy, aged just 45. He had made 223 appearances for Brighton before joining us at the start of the 1996/97 season. His debut was in the opening League game of that season at Shrewsbury, a game that finished 1-1. A no nonsense defender he went on to make 259 appearances, scoring 19 goals, turning out to be, by far, Alan Smith's best signing. His last game was in a goalless draw at Huddersfield on 8th February 2003, where he came on as a substitute for Craig Faulconbridge. His finest moments were during our amazing FA Cup run in 2000/01. He finished as our leading scorer in the tournament that season with five goals, including the first at Leicester, which has been overshadowed by Roy Essandoh's winner. After leaving us, he went on to play for Oxford United, Hornchurch and Ebbsfleet. At the time of his death, he was the Chairman of Jarvis Brook Juniors in the Crowborough League and was living in the town.

Finally, it was Ken Crook, also a defender, who made 29 appearances for the first team between 1956 and

1961, whilst playing regularly for the reserves (remember them!). His debut was in a 2-1 Isthmian League defeat at Bromley on 27th October 1956. His son, David, also played for the Club making 6 first team appearances in 1983/84. After leaving us Ken went on to have a long association with my second club, Flackwell Heath, first as a player then as Chairman. I would often see him on my midweek visits to Wilks Park. Ken was 84.

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Several of our ex-players have been amongst the goals recently and you may be aware that Junior Morias came on as substitute and scored twice for Peterborough in a 3-0 win over Port Vale. Junior, one of our youth products, was always a lively and enthusiastic character but just couldn't make that breakthrough as a regular. He actually made 32 appearances for us, but only started twice before dropping into non-league football with Boreham Wood and St Albans. He regularly got amongst the goals at both clubs before signing for the Posh (who



have a great record of giving non-league players the opportunity of League football).

You may not be aware of the next player doing well and I only found out as I often buy the Non-League Paper on a Sunday. When Andy Sandell played for us it was as a left-back, although he did have a knack of scoring from free-kicks and in the 2010/11 scored twice at home to Barnet and again at Lincoln. After 50 appearances he sustained an injury the following season that kept him out for a long while and he then left to join Newport. I actually saw him play against Woking in a Conference game on my first visit to Rodney Parade in October 2012. He was still at left back and scored! However, two goals from another Wycombe favourite, Kevin Betsy, gave the visitors a 3-2 win. Since leaving Newport, he has found himself at Chippenham Town in the Southern League Premier Division, where he plays as a striker and scores for fun! He is fast approaching 30 for the season and may well have reached that total by the time you read this.

## FOOTBALL MATTERS

Please note that the opinions expressed in this article are mine and not of the Association.

Proposed changes to football-

Abolishing offside, abolishing penalties and replacing them with a player starting from 25 yards out and having 10 seconds to run at goal and try to score, more than three substitutes to be used, games to be played in quarters not halves. The ramblings of a complete outsider you may think? No, from one of the World's greatest players, Marc van Basten. Okay, just another ex-player with crazy ideas? Then you discover he has just been appointed Technical Director of FIFA!! I presume he realises that if games were played in quarters then each one would last 22 and a half minutes! Also just to contradict himself about penalties he advocates doing away with extra time and deciding all cup games with a penalty shoot-out! He also advocates top players playing less games. An answer to that would be for the Champions League to resort



to what it was, a knockout tournament for champions only. It seems to me the more managers moan about too many games, the more the powers-that-be invent ways of adding more games to the already crowded fixture list for monetary reasons only. When the G14 group of clubs threatened to form a breakaway European League, UEFA, instead of extending the European Champions Cup to include teams that haven't earned the right to play in it (i.e. they haven't actually won their league) should have called their bluff and told them to go ahead and play amongst themselves. I bet their supporters would soon have got fed up watching the same old teams year in year out. And if the likes of Manchester United and Arsenal (the most successful English teams at the time) had absconded from the Football League, would they really be missed by the majority of us? I don't think so.

Another idea came from Tony Cascarino who wants to see teams of ten aside despite the fact that eleven aside has worked since the year dot! What with the equally ridiculous idea

of extending the qualifiers to the World Cup Finals to 48, I fear our wonderful sport is falling into the wrong hands. I'm all for change if it enhances the game but, to me, none of the above does. Instead it almost reduces it to a circus, just like the ECB have done with cricket.

### **PLAYER OF THE SEASON**

You will soon be receiving voting forms for OWWSA's player of the season, so start thinking about your choice and let us know on your decision. I feel there are several candidates.

### **INFO WANTED**

I am in the throes of compiling an all-time players' list. When I did the research over 20 years ago for the Official History Book I spent what seemed like an eternity in Wycombe library reading every match report in the Bucks Free Press going back to the club's formation in 1887. I made a note of every available line-up and goal scorer.



Unfortunately though, until the early 1960s very few Christian names were mentioned. Sometimes not even the player's initials were given. If any of you out there have had any relatives that played for the Club can you please contact me with any details. It would be nice to know something about them rather than just a surname.

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 in the next edition, please contact me on 07484 723982 or mail me at [d Finch105@btinternet.com](mailto:d Finch105@btinternet.com). I would be really glad to hear from you.

This will actually be the last one of the season although I intend to do one during the summer to bring you all the details for next season. I can't believe another one is drawing to a close. Just where does the time go!

Dave Finch (OWWSA Committee)