



Welcome to members and non-members alike for this latest edition. I hope that you enjoy reading it and will pass it on to your friends afterwards. Please note, as always, some of the opinions expressed are mine and not necessarily those of OWWSA as a whole.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Unfortunately, at this moment in time, for whatever reasons our membership is well down on last season's. A reminder therefore for members who have still not renewed that it is no longer necessary to fill in any forms. You can pay by cash in person at the Ground or on the coach to Membership Secretary Graham Roberts, or by cheque (made payable to OWWSA) either again in person or to him at 2 Cornwall Lodge, Courtlands, Maidenhead, SL6 2PS.

You can also pay by bank transfer  
Sort code: 20-40-71  
Barclays Bank Account No: 30961116  
Ref: Your name.

Any problems or any change in your personal details please phone him 07876267301 or email him at [membership@owwsa.co.uk](mailto:membership@owwsa.co.uk). Cost is £12 for the season for all. Please note for members 16 or under there will be a Stadium tour organised later on in the season. All non-members however must fill in a form, which can be downloaded from our website.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Another successful AGM was held on 19th October. After the formalities, in which Keith Blagbrough and Graham Roberts were duly re-elected, there was a very enlightening question and answer session with Club Chairman Trevor Stroud and Assistant Manager Richard Dobson. Also on hand was new General manager Michael Davies and it was interesting to hear his views.

Next up is our Race Night on Friday, 17th November for which John is looking for sponsors of horses and races. Please contact him on 01494 441145 if you are interested. The event will start at 7.30 pm, although



the bar and kitchen will be open from 6.30. Entrance fee is £2 payable on the night.

Our other events are the Quiz Night on Friday, 12 January and Annual Dinner on Friday, 9 March. Final details to follow.

### **OWWSA BOX**

In recognition of the money and work that your Association puts into the Club we have the use of one of the hospitality boxes, which we use for our committee meetings after games. It is freely available on occasions during the season for members to use and can be booked through John (01494 441145). The package, for up to twelve persons, includes match tickets for all, four parking spaces, one programme per two, a pie and chips lunch and coffee and tea and biscuits at half-time. Drinks can be bought from the Woodlands bar (a waiter will take your order). Any non-members in the party will be required to join the Association for the normal £12 fee. Members are only allowed to take advantage of this deal once a season, although it can be booked privately.

In that case it would cost £25 per head, with the proceeds going to the Football Club.

### **TRAVEL**



A big well done to the 126 supporters who, despite the efforts of the

Football League to deter us, made the long Tuesday evening trip to Carlisle. Obviously some of you made an overnight stop there, while those of us on the coach had a 15 hour sojourn. Surprisingly we had more supporters travel on this than we did last season when the game was on a Saturday!

Our next two trips involve more long days out. Next Saturday, 11th November it is Morecambe. The coach will leave Adams Park at 8.00 am and the fare for adult members is £27, seniors members £26 and junior members £25. For all non-members it is £32. After this is an evening at Accrington on Tuesday, 21st November. Departure time is 2.00 pm and prices are £25, £24 and £23 for members, £30 for non-members.



Further ahead, we now have details of our weekend trip to Chesterfield at the end of the season. We will travel up there on Friday, 27th April and return Monday, 30th. We will be staying at the 4-star Derbyshire Hotel at South Normanton, which is 13 miles from the ground. The Sunday will almost certainly involve a trip around the scenic Derbyshire countryside, with the lovely old towns of Bakewell and Matlock not far away. The cost, which includes coach travel and three nights bed, breakfast and evening meal, is £229 each. A £25 per person deposit will secure your place. Please note, the hotel has no lifts, as there is only one upper floor. There are 61 ground floor rooms though so there should be no problems in that respect. Remember we could well have something to celebrate then!

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

Just recently two of our members have passed the 70 year mark of support for the Club. First of all, David White sent a note to Graham with his membership renewal payment to say that he has been

going since he was 8 years old and still has some of the old programmes that cost just 3d in old money. He also has in his possession his Uncle's season ticket for 1930/31.

The other to reach this landmark is a dear friend of mine, David Payne. He remembers being taken as a small lad to see Frank Adams hand the ownership of Loakes Park over to the Club on 19th April 1947 before the Isthmian League game against Corinthian-Casuals. Before the game against Luton a party of us had the hospitality package with him to celebrate. Despite the cruel result, we had a wonderful time and it is an excellent way to enhance your match day and very good value.

I would like to hear from more of you that have supported The Blues for 30 years or longer, so please get in touch.

### **ON THE FIELD**

The goals continue to flow in our matches, although not all one-way unfortunately. It's strange that the three games that we have kept a clean sheet in have also seen us fail



to score. There have been three main talking points since my last newsletter.

Firstly, we have been the victim of some poor decisions, two of which have been dealt with retrospectively (see the Football Matters section), which clearly have affected our points tally, while, how on Earth was that not a push on Ebere Eze on Saturday? Some people say that these things even themselves out over a season. I hope they are right!



Secondly the performances of Ebere Eze and Nick Freeman. Ebere's silky skills are a pleasure to watch. He just seems to glide past opposing players and what about those goals at Cambridge!! Nick has taken advantage of the bad injury to Nathan Tyson to show he is worth a place in the starting line-up. A well-taken goal against Barnet and some excellent crosses from both wings to

set up his team-mates has shown us what he can do.

Thirdly and a very worrying trend. As I write this we have eight players on the injured list, mostly sustained in training. With a small squad and a limited budget can we really afford this to happen? It would be a great shame if it jeopardises our promotion chances.



I do of course appreciate that Nathan Tyson's was at Cambridge and



Michael Harriman's happened without anyone near him. Wishing the pair of them a full recovery as



soon as possible.

On a better note, the following appearance milestones for the Club have been reached recently:



Joe Jacobson's 150th (Carlisle)



Paris Cowan-Hall's 100th (Mansfield)



Dominic Gape's 50th.

Well done to each of them!



To finish it is sad to hear that, due to personal reasons, Danny Rowe has left the Club. He has returned North and joined York City, scoring on his debut after coming on as a substitute in a 3-2 home defeat to Tamworth. I wish him well.

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW**

Paul Hayes, after signing for National League South club Hemel Hempstead, has left there without playing a game and joined Newport County. Another recent move has seen Roger Johnson, who formed a superb centre-back partnership with Mike Williamson over ten years ago, sign a short-term deal with Bromley. Mike, incidentally, is at Oxford United, as is John Mousinho.

Also in non-league quarters, Ryan Sellers is playing for Wealdstone and Alex Lynch is at Chester. I recently saw highlights of the latter at Tranmere, where he pulled off some



amazing saves to earn his side a point.

One of my old favourites, Steve Thompson, has taken over the managerial reins at Dorchester Town.

Onto foreign fields and a little-known club, Ostersunds, have recently risen from the fifth tier in the Swedish League to the top flight in just six seasons and last season they qualified for a Europa League place. They are currently unbeaten in this and leading their group. They are managed by an Englishman, Graham Potter, who played five games for us in our first season (1993/94) as a Football League club. A full-back, he was at Birmingham City at the time and spent a month's loan with us. It's a pity that more clubs in England don't realise that there are good English managers out there instead of the obsession with foreign ones and I'm not being xenophobic.

### FOOTBALL MATTERS

Video evidence or not ? After recent events against Luton and Carlisle, where an opponent has retrospectively been dealt with for misdemeanours missed on the day by the match officials, I'm all for it. Those opposed to the idea are worried about games being held up but both those games had been stopped anyway and surely it is better to know that the correct decisions have been made. It could be crucial come the end of the season. I find it particularly galling to know that we didn't win at Carlisle because of incorrect decisions. Not only were they awarded a penalty that never was but we were denied a clear one when the linesman missed a blatant handball. Two other points-one, if I was a referee I would gladly welcome help to make sure my decisions are correct. Two, the punishment handed out is of no use to us after the event.

Recently, I was watching a top Brazilian League match on BT Sport, which was stopped every few minutes because of players over-reacting to challenges and feigning



injury. Perhaps, if they knew they would be punished afterwards every time they did this because of video evidence, it could stamp out this ridiculous behaviour. I dread to think what next year's World Cup will be like in this respect!

Both of the German and Italian League are making use of video evidence this season and it will be interesting to find out the outcome when the season finishes.

On a different note, we get a lot of stick from some opposition supporters about our tactics, yet it is they who are having players suspended for misdemeanors caught on film. Previously, players from one of our Northern opponents have also been retrospectively punished for their antics against us.

### **INFO WANTED**

I am in the throes of compiling an all-time players' list and would like to hear from anyone who can shed light on the following who played between 1924 and 1930:

A. Clarke (not Arch Clark who played earlier)

M. Slade (also played for Chesham), Hellyer,

D. C. Stoger,

S. Stratford (not sure if this is Harry who played at that time),

F. Bates (again this may be Jack who played at that time).

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 [dfinch105@btinternet.com](mailto:dfinch105@btinternet.com). I would be really glad to hear from you. Also can you please make any friends who are not members aware of what we are about.

Dave Finch  
(OWWSA Committee Member)