



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.

COMMITTEE NEWS

At our last meeting, your committee decided to donate another total of £2,000 to the Club, so that the electronic scoreboards can be repaired. We felt that they were very useful for keeping an eye on the time throughout a game, especially in light of our record of late goals this season.

SOCIAL EVENTS

A most enjoyable evening was had by all at our recent Quiz Night. A record 26 teams entered, a credit to the hard work that Sandie Derben puts into organising. The evening followed it's usual course with James Herriot's Soapy Elbows coming out on top. The coveted wooden spoons went to The Swans. Marion and Harold Lunnon again came up trumps with their raffle, which raised a profit of £488.

The evening's total profit was £1,400. Thanks also to Graham Roberts and Sue McCloud for their help on the night.

Next up is our 'piece de resistance' the Annual Dinner on Friday, 9th March. The price is £30 per head, with tables of ten the general rule. The reason the cost has risen is because we have listened to comments made by members and made it a waiter service as opposed to the queues to get your meal. The meal itself is at 7:30, although the bar opens an hour beforehand. Please contact Sandie for further information regarding booking a table, plus details of the proposed three-course meal, including the vegetarian options.

The following have been invited as OWWSA's guests: Gareth Ainsworth, Richard Dobson, Roger Mott and David Finch junior (OWWSA Auditor).

There will be the usual raffle and Marion is always on the lookout for donated prizes.



TRAVEL

A further reminder about our proposed weekend trip to Chesterfield for our last scheduled away game of the season. We have reached the point where we will probably have to deem it a non-starter due to lack of sufficient interest, which is a shame. Previous such trips have been very enjoyable and there could well be things to celebrate!

The next away trip is on Saturday, 3rd March to Crawley. Cost for adult members is £14, senior members £13 and junior members £12. For all non-members it is £19.

As usual please contact Rena or Graham by the Thursday evening to secure your seat.

Details of other forthcoming games are available on the OWWSA website. Please note that the game at Lincoln on Saturday, 7th April has had to be postponed due to their involvement in the Football League Trophy Final the next day. It will obviously be a Tuesday night out now.

R. I. P.

The year has got off to a sad note with the passing away of Peter Birdseye, Jimmy Hay and Cyrille Regis. Much has been written about all three and I won't repeat too much of it here. Peter was, at the time, our oldest surviving player and the Father of a good schoolmate of mine, Paul, who also had a long career playing for us. Jimmy came down from Scotland to find work in the early sixties. I last came across him about twelve years ago when he was manager at Adderbury Park, who played in the Hellenic League at the time.

Cyrille, who was a wonderful ambassador for the game, formed that superb partnership upfront with Simon Garner. I will always remember his wonderful goal in his final game for us on a scorching afternoon at Leyton Orient. Our condolences go out to the Family and friends of all three.



ON THE FIELD

What can be said about our performances since my last newsletter? For sheer entertainment it could not have been bettered and, especially at Kenilworth Road, we have shown what a good side we are. That performance was right up there amongst my greatest moments of watching the Club. Of course there was then the amazing finish to the Carlisle game in which Marcus Bean, having reached the 100 game mark for us against Preston, became the 15th player to score in the league for us this season, which is why we have scored so many. In true style, he then follows up with another at Exeter!

The two goals by Nathan Tyson at Luton means that he is the first player to reach 50 goals for us since we gained promotion to the Football League. Matt Bloomfield has also recorded two all-time records for us, being the first to play in 400 Football League matches and also to pass 100 substitute appearances.

Without wishing to single out players in what has been a true team effort

over this period, I would just like to mention the versatile Dominic Gape and the promise of Nathan McGinley, who showed such calmness in an assured performance after replacing the injured Dan Scarr at Exeter. He looks another in the Alfie Mawson-Jason McCarthy mould.

FROM THE PAST

As this newsletter was scheduled for the visit to Cheltenham, I thought that I would look back to see what we were doing on the equivalent Saturdays 5, 10, 20 and 30 years ago.

On 16th February 2013, during Gareth's first season in charge, we lost 1-0 away to our old friends Bristol Rovers in a League Two fixture with the following team:

Archer, McCoy (Spring), Dunne, Harriman, Winfield, Stewart, Grant (Morgan), Lewis, Kuffour, McClure (Oli), Wood.

Five years previously, again on the 16th and again a League Two match, it was a 1-0 home win over Rotherham, with a goal from big Scottish defender David McCracken and we lined up as follows: Fielding,



Martin, Woodman, Johnson, McCracken, Holt, Torres, Doherty, Knight (Bloomfield), McGleish (Sutton), Lennon.

February 14th 1998 and another home win in a League Division Two (now League One) game. This time it was 2-1 against, now Premier League boys, Burnley, goals coming from Steve Brown and Paul McCarthy. We had a great record against them at Adams Park in the five seasons that we played them, winning four in succession, with scores of 4-1, 5-0, 2-1, 2-0, followed by a 1-1 draw on their last visit. Our line-up twenty years ago was:

Taylor, Cousins, Kavanagh, Ryan, McCarthy, Mohan, Carroll, Scott (Harkin), Stallard (Read), McGavin, Brown.

Thirty years ago we were still playing Non-League football and had yet to move to Adams Park. The Football League wasn't in our thoughts as we travelled to Dagenham for a relegation battle in the Football Conference on 13th February. A poor performance and a 2-1 defeat didn't help the cause, although we did

survive by the end of the season. Our goal came from feisty left-back Sean Norman. Another defender, Michael Barnes, played his only game for us in this line-up:

Granville, Corbin, Norman, Barnes, Barrett, Woodall, Barry (Greenaway), Boyland, West, Crossley, Durham.

I wonder how many of those players mentioned above are familiar with any of you.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

I will start with something a little bit different. John Halls, joined us from Aldershot (as did several others) when Gary Waddock was manager. He signed just before the start of the 2011/12 season but went on to play just eight times due to a recurring injury and loss of form. He retired at the end of that season and set up his own male fashion business. Now though he actually treads the catwalk as a highly successful male model.

On BT Sport a few weeks ago, St Mirren featured in an important Scottish Championship game. Captaining them was Stephen



McGinn, while John Sutton was on their substitutes' bench. Also, north of the border, Alex Jacubiak, who disappointed in a loan spell with us last season, is now on loan at Falkirk.

Another of our ex-loanees, Stephen O'Halloran, is at Stockport and featured in their recent FA Trophy win over Maidenhead. Stephen was excellent during our League Cup campaign of 2006/07.

FOOTBALL MATTERS

There was an interesting article in The Times' excellent Monday football supplement recently, although I thought the heading was rather condescending. It read 'Once a small club, always a small club' and gave a table of average home attendances for this season for clubs new to the Football League since automatic promotion from non-league was introduced in 1986/87. It didn't include those that had been League clubs before and who had reformed (Wimbledon and Newport). Nine of these clubs (Fleetwood, Cheltenham, Yeovil, Forest Green, Stevenage, Crawley, Barnet, Accrington and Morecambe) are the bottom nine of

the total Premier/Football League list. We are in 72nd place (average 4,372), while Burton, two divisions higher, are 67th with an average of 4,710. Of the nine, Fleetwood are 84th with 3,211, while 92nd placed Morecambe average just 1,443.

What the article fails to grasp is that these clubs, on the whole, don't come from the big cities or larger towns and would average more if people followed their local side instead of the big boys down the road.

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. I would be really glad to hear from you.

Dave Finch (OWWSA Committee Member)