



Welcome to members and non-members alike for this latest edition, which will be the last of the season. 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

In the last newsletter I informed you that we had donated £2,000 to the Club for remedial work on the small scoreboards. This has now been held in abeyance, as there is now a possibility of replacing the large screen. I will let you know of any further development. Altogether we have made donations of £5,140 towards various club projects this season.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Our last event of the season, the Annual Dinner, was held in the Caledonian Suite on Friday, 9th March and a most enjoyable evening was had by all. All factions of the Club were represented, showing once again the

togetherness that is Wycombe Wanderers. A special mention must be made to Gareth and Dobbo, who, on the eve of an important match, found time to come out and support the event. A profit of £240 was made, giving a total profit of £2,528 from our social events this season, which goes to help the Football Club. Thank you for your continuing support.

As it was the last event I would also like to thank everyone who has helped to put all of them on throughout the season, especially organiser Sandie Derben. Unless anyone has any different ideas we will be running the same ones next season. Dates will be decided as soon as the fixtures come out.

TRAVEL

Despite the fact that we were short of our target for the weekend trip to Chesterfield for (hopefully) our last away game, Roger Mott has given the go-ahead. So there are plenty of seats available for anyone having second thoughts and would like to go. The total cost is £229 per person. Please contact Rena on



07702 348678 as soon as possible. Remember, as I have said before it could be a weekend of celebrations! Before then we have Tuesday's trip to Lincoln. Departure time from Adams Park is 2.30 pm. Cost for adult members is £21, senior members £20, junior members £19, while for all non-members it is £26.

Again with these hopefully being our last trips a big thank you to Rena and Graham for their organisation and to all who have helped out with various jobs during the course of our journeys.

ON THE FIELD

Despite a blip in our home form we find ourselves in third spot thanks to some superb away performances, Crawley and Notts County in particular. This coming week will be so crucial though, with a trip to Lincoln following on quickly from Yeovil and then next Saturday the visit of Accrington. Thankfully some of our fellow promotion seekers have still got to play each other, so points will be dropped. Although of course five more wins will see us home and dry anyway!

It was wonderful to see Scott Kashket grab the winner against Grimsby after all of his injury woes. Also, Adam El-Abd, who has been outstanding since the turn of the year, scored his first for us. With Sido Jombati scoring his first of the season at Crawley we have now seen 18 different players score league goals this season. A truly amazing statistic and one of the reasons we have scored so many. Long may it continue! It was also great to see Michael Harriman return to the fold after a long spell on the sidelines.

One milestone was reached against Grimsby with Scott Brown, a model of consistency, making his 50th appearance.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

You should all have had the voting slips by now. Lynden has received a good deal already but if you still haven't voted please let her know your choice by 21st April. I can think of several candidates as every member of the squad has played their part in an exciting season.



FROM THE PAST

I am looking back on the equivalent weekend to this (14th April) 5, 10, 20 and 30 years ago.

Five years ago on 13th April 2013 a 2-1 home win over bottom club Aldershot secured League Two survival for the Blues, who would eventually finish 15th.

Matt McClure, making his 50th appearance for us, scored the opener and, after the Shots had equalised, he laid on the winner for Joel Grant.

The team that day was: Ingram, Harriman, Dunne, Scowen, Winfield (L. Johnson), Doherty, Grant, Morgan (Kuffour), McClure, Spring, Wood (Andrade). Matt of course now plies his trade at Aldershot.

Five years previously, again on the 13th April, we visited a certain team in North Bucks, who were looking to clinch promotion to League One. We were trying to seal a play-off spot and only an injury-time equaliser from the home side denied us a win, the game finishing 2-2. Our goals were both scored by Scott McGleish, taking his League tally for the

season to 25, becoming the first player to reach this total for league goals since Tony Horseman did so in the Isthmian League campaign of 1969/70.

The line-up was: Fielding, Martin, Woodman, L. Johnson, Williamson, Holt, Torres, Doherty, Knight (Facey), McGleish, Oakes (Herd). Scott finished with 26, a Football League record for us that still stands. We did make the play-offs but lost our semi-final to Stockport.

April 13th 1998 (Easter Monday) saw a League Division Two (now League One) visit to Oldham (our first visit to Boundary Park). Both teams were safely placed in mid-table but we came out on top with a Mark Stallard goal giving us a 1-0 win.

Our line-up twenty years ago was: Taylor, Kavanagh, Beeton, Ryan, Cousins, Mohan, Carroll, Read, Stallard, Harkin, Brown.

Thirty years ago we were trying to avoid relegation from the Football Conference as we travelled to Telford on 16th April. A battling performance in a goalless draw



gained us a welcome point, which ultimately helped us stay up.

The line-up was: Lester, Young, Crossley, Day, Barrett, Taylor, Roderick, Boyland (Greenaway), West, Mann, Durham.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Mickey Bell, one of the best left-backs to play for us, has become manager of Western League side Clevedon Town. Also stepping into management, albeit as an assistant manager, is Ben Strevens at Eastleigh, where Sam Togwell has joined other ex-players Chris Zebroski and Sam Wood in their squad. Zebroski has been amongst the goals recently, scoring a hat-trick in a 4-3 home win over Hartlepool. Another amongst the goals. and how good to see, is that wonderful young player Ebere Eze, who seems to be getting a regular game at Loftus Road. I will never forget his brace at Cambridge earlier this season. Likewise, Jordon Ibe netted a cracker for Bournemouth recently.

I was pleased to see Bromley reach the final of the F.A. Trophy after beating Gateshead in the semi-final.

This should give Roger Johnson a trip to Wembley. He blotted his copybook the other week though by getting himself sent off.

Whilst reading the Non-League paper I came across news of some players who, for one reason or another, never set the World alight in their time at Adams Park. Reece Styche, a known goalscorer who has been capped by Gibraltar, but failed to find the net for us, is at Darlington. Rowan Liburd, who also failed to score for us, plays alongside Dayle Southwell at Guiseley. Nicholas Bignall, who was once stretchered off at Adams Park after injuring himself in the pre-match warm-up, is at Hungerford. Ade Azeez has joined Dover on loan from parent club Cambridge United. Finally, congratulations to Alfie Mawson, whose lovely family still visit us for games when he is not playing, for his England call-up. I don't think many of us who saw his consistent displays a few seasons back are surprised, are we ?



R. I. P.

As I was compiling this newsletter I learnt of the sad death of Ray Wilkins who passed away at the age of just 61. Towards the end of a distinguished career, Ray actually played one game for us as a favour to our manager at the time, Alan Smith. It was on 7th September 1996 in a League game at home to Luton Town, which we lost 1-0. Ray was just seven days short of his 40th birthday and became the oldest player to appear in the League for us. After playing for us Ray then signed for Hibernian before finishing his playing career at Millwall, then Leyton Orient, while, after a string of poor results, Smith was relieved of his duties. Sincere condolences go out to Ray's family and friends.

Footnote- Rob Lee passed Ray's record when he appeared for us at Cheltenham in the play-off game at the end of the 2005/06 season. Rob was then 40 years and 101 days old.

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 future editions, please contact me on

07484 723982 or mail me at dfinch105@btinternet.com. I would be really glad to hear from you. There will be one in the Summer once I know of next season's fixtures, new signings, etc. I think we could well have much to look forward to!

Dave Finch
(OWWSA Committee Member)