



Welcome to the summer edition of the newsletter, which starts with an important announcement.

COMMITTEE NEWS



At our recent committee meeting John and Sandie Derben both stated that they were standing down as officers of the Association, due mainly for health reasons but also because of John's increasing commitments on the Trust Board and the volunteer group.

We thank them for their past efforts and wish them well for the future. It is no coincidence that, since their involvement, the profile of the Association has been well and truly raised. I remember the old days when we were lucky if a dozen people bothered to turn up for the AGM ! These days it is 4 or 5 times that amount. It does mean of course that we badly need to replace them if we are to carry on in the same manner.

So please everyone if you want the Association to continue to improve, have a good think about coming on board.

MEMBERSHIP

At our meeting, it was decided to keep the membership at £12 so please renew as soon as possible. Please note that, due to the new Data Protection legislation, everyone has to fill in an application form, including all existing members.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Sandie, even though she knew that she was standing down, still found time to negotiate with the Club about dates for our social events. They are as follows:

- AGM- Thursday 18th October,
- Race Night- Friday, 9th November,
- Quiz- Friday 25th January
- Annual Dinner- Friday, 8th March.

Again, these can only be run successfully with more members on the committee to help out.

TRAVEL

Rena has drafted a provisional list for coach travel, details of which will appear on the website in due course after she has agreed them with Roger Mott. First up is Doncaster, costing £22 for adult members. The usual discounts for seniors and juniors will apply, as will the £5 surcharge for non-members. Start time to be confirmed.



## ON THE FIELD

After the excitement of promotion we look forward to higher league football, which will hopefully bring in bigger crowds. Judging by the attendance for our last game of the season, which technically had nothing on it, the level of support is out there if only more would come on a regular basis. Of course, some of our opponents will fill the away end.



On the playing side, it was wonderful news that Gareth has signed on until

2023, showing his commitment to the cause. Also, with most of the squad renewing their contracts, we have a continuity that a lot of clubs lack.



As I write this article we have made just two new signings and, like last summer, Gareth has opted for experience in the versatile Darius Charles. There is also a welcome return for Ryan Allsop, who performed well for us when on loan in the 2015/16 season.

Once more the Football League, in their misguided wisdom, have given us Tuesday night matches at Plymouth, Fleetwood and Plymouth. I just wish they

would purchase an atlas of Britain! No thought is ever given to those loyal supporters who travel to every away game (the true lifeblood of a club).

## EX-PLAYERS

With the bereavements of Harold Hillson and Peter Birdseye, the oldest surviving player now is my father-in-law, George Wharton, who played between the years 1940-48. Essentially a reserve player, he made 16 first team appearances and scored 9 goals. He will be 97 in August.

## FOOTBALL MATTERS

Normally in this section you find me moaning about some of the changes in the game. This time, to start with, I am going to inform you of a couple of decisions that are, in my opinion, a step in the right direction.

First, in the League Cup, that silly and confusing seeding of the first two rounds, has been dispensed with and replaced with a straight draw, which is how all cup draws should be. The first round does have a North and South section though.

In the League Trophy, only two players over 21 and who have made 40 first team appearances will be allowed in the Premier and Championship sides. Although I find this statement unclear as I'm not sure if it means that clubs can still



field more over-age players as long as they haven't reached this total. Although this is an improvement, I still believe that all players in these teams should be under 21. If not then re-name them B teams, which is what they really are.

Now onto matters that I'm not pleased with. First of all, the announcement that a programme is no longer mandatory at games in the Football League. Some clubs are saying that they need to cut costs. I honestly believe that the cost of having a programme printed is a small percentage of the overall expenditure of a club and, if they wanted to cut down on it, then stop paying players excessive amounts of money. I realise this doesn't apply to every club and certainly not us but some of the wages that you hear bandied about for what are average players beggars belief.

A programme has always been part of going to a game, so why don't clubs go back to the old days and produce an 8 page effort with all the main details and news on cheaper paper and sell for a £1 or £1-50. They would also be far easier to store.

One final thing, can anyone explain what the purpose is of the League Cup draw being made in Vietnam? Are people there really interested in who Crewe or Crawley are playing? (No offence meant to either). It's just like a sketch on Monty Python !

### PROGRAMMES WANTED

On a personal note has anyone out there got copies of the home matches against Carlisle (16th August 2014) and Plymouth play-off game (14th May 2015) that they no longer require? Because of a lack of space at the time I wasn't buying a programme. After having had a sort-out at home and making the room to store them I started buying them again last season and am now trying to bring my collection up to date. I will of course reimburse you for them.

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