



Happy New Year to one and all. I hope that you had a good festive break, apart from the results! I also hope that you will enjoy this latest edition.

SOCIAL EVENTS



Our next event is the Quiz Night on Friday, 25th January and will be held in the Vere Suite. The usual start time of

7:30 applies, with food and drink being available from 6:30. I am reliably informed that Sue and her social committee have worked extremely hard to get teams booked and there may not be room for anymore. If you are planning to add a team however please contact her immediately by phone on 01494 916117 or 07730497745 or E-Mail mccloudsue80@gmail.com

TRAVEL

With the Blackpool game being cancelled due to their involvement in the FA Cup our next trip is to our West Country friends, Bristol Rovers. Departure time is 11:00, with the cost for adult members being £18. The usual discounts for senior and junior members apply, as does the £5 surcharge for non-members. Please contact Rena (01494 520179) or Graham (07876267301) in the normal way for any away trips. As I was compiling this I found out that the Blackpool game has been rearranged for Tuesday, 29th January.

ON THE FIELD

A contrast in fortunes of late. There was an unbeaten run of six league games, with excellent results and performances against Peterborough, Sunderland, Accrington and Barnsley. At times the football played was a joy to watch and the best for a long time. This meant that we found ourselves in the lofty heights of ninth place. We were then brought down to earth with four straight defeats, starting with the home game against Wimbledon. Why is it we always lose to them at Adams Park? The disappointing feature has been our lack of goals in these games, with one of the two being scored by an opponent. Some of the match officials' decisions haven't helped though. We now have a break of ten days so let's hope we can regain our form. Also hopefully deals can be done to re-sign the loan players who have been excellent,



particularly Fred Onyedinma, who has now played 50 games for us.



Other milestones reached have been Paris Cowan-Hall's 150th appearance



and Dominic Gape's 100th.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

One with a difference to start with. I am informed by Lynden that Stacey Dooley, the girlfriend of Sam Tucknott, has recently won Strictly Come Dancing (I actually never



watch this programme). Sam played for our Youth and Reserve teams over ten years ago before becoming a fitness trainer. He now has his own pro-fit company. He has also played non-league football for Bognor Regis Town and Merstham.

I watched the Bromley v Sutton National League game on BT Sport a few nights ago and was surprised to see Sam Wood playing for the home side. Last season he had been at Eastleigh and I wasn't aware that he had moved on. Opponents Sutton also had an ex-player, albeit one for just a short spell. This was the excellent Craig Eastmond, who was impressive when he joined on loan from Arsenal in the latter part of the 2011/12 season.

IN THE PAST

Looking back to games played on the first Saturday in January, five years ago we were in the midst of a relegation battle to avoid the drop into non-league football.

AFC Wimbledon came to Adams Park and, surprise surprise, they won comfortably 3-0! Our line-up that afternoon was: Ingram, Arnold, McCoy (Morias), Scowen, Stewart, L. Johnson, Cowan-Hall, Lewis, Kuffour (McClure), Knott (Craig), Wood.

We of course avoided relegation on that wonderful afternoon at Torquay thanks to Mansfield's Colin Daniel (always a legend in my eyes!).

Ten years ago, in complete contrast, we were actually leading the League Two table when Bury visited Adams Park. Goals from Matt Harrold and Angelo Balanta put us in control until a late own goal by Mike Williamson made for a nervy last few minutes. We held on to strengthen our lead at the top. The line-up was:

Shearer, Crooks, Woodman, L. Johnson, Williamson, Holt, Phillips (Mousinho), Bloomfield, Harrold, Spence, Balanta (Vieira). We fell away after this but were still promoted in third place by one goal from that afternoon's opponents Bury.

Twenty years ago, and home against York City for a Division Two (now League One) fixture. We were in another relegation battle but three wins out of our previous four home games had seen prospects improve. One of those wins had been over Manchester City. However, after Keith Ryan had equalised York's opener, the visitors grabbed a 76th minute winner, which resulted in manager Neil Smillie being dismissed. His replacement, Lawrie Sanchez worked wonders to keep us up on the last day of the season when we won at Lincoln. York actually replaced us in the bottom four to go down. Amazingly, in our end of season run, we completed the double over Manchester City! How fortunes change! Our line-up against York was:

Taylor, Lawrence, Vinnicombe, Ryan, Cousins, McCarthy, Simpson (Read), Brown, McSporrán, Scott, Carroll (Emblen).



FOOTBALL MATTERS

In these days of multicultural societies and general enlightenment, it is distressing to know that some football supporters still live in the dark ages. I cannot get my head around disliking another person because they have a different colour, different religion or their preferences of who they live with. To me whoever plays for my club is a player and that is how I look at him. Reported incidences of racism in particular are becoming more prevalent and the authorities have got to be strong and punish the guilty severely. It doesn't help though that the top governing body awards its tournaments to nations who have issues with race and sexuality. Also just recently a coach who had made homophobic tweets gets rewarded with a management job. I wonder if his club has any gay players and if so how they feel about his appointment. There is no place in a civilised world for prejudices against any group of people.

As usual the views on anything footballwise are mine and not necessarily those of the Committee. If anyone has any comments regarding the content of this newsletter please contact me on 07484 723982 or dfinch105@btinternet.com

Dave Finch