



Welcome to the first Newsletter for what seems like an eternity. I hope this finds you safe and well after what has been, to put it mildly, an extremely difficult time. Let us hope we can look to a future that resembles more of a normal life.

### COMMITTEE



We recently held our first meeting since January 2020 with the news that Graham Roberts, who has done an excellent job alongside Rena in organising our coach travel, has moved to pastures new in Hampshire. Graham, of course, was also the Membership Secretary. Steve Phelps has volunteered to step into that breach as well as being our Webmaster. We would like to record our thanks to Graham for all that he has put in over the past few seasons. We have however gained a new committee member in George Towersey. Welcome aboard George, it brings the average age down somewhat! We would still like to recruit one or two more though.



Due to restrictions on movement up and down the coach aisles it will not be possible to take payment on the day of travel. Also due to Rena's irregular working hours there will also no longer be any telephone bookings for the foreseeable future. All bookings will have to be made at Adams Park before home matches. We will try to make it possible to book for two or three matches at the same time, so anyone not attending a particular home game still has the opportunity for future matches. Obviously, it means all bookings have to be paid for in advance. There is also a probability that, depending on numbers, there may not be a coach to all midweek away matches (they all appear to be the longest ones this season!) and the League Cup at Exeter

certainly looks doubtful. All of this is assuming that away support will be possible anyway



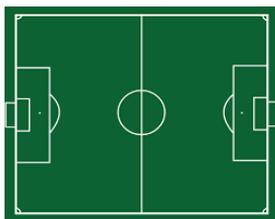
We have sadly lost several of our ex-players as well as fellow supporters, all of whom will be sorely missed. None more so than our very own Sandie Derben.

Sandie lived and breathed Wycombe Wanderers, her hometown club. She introduced husband John to the Club and her sheer enthusiasm rubbed off on him. They both became committee members of OWWSA, leading onto John eventually taking over as Chairman and Sandie becoming the Social Secretary. She set about and succeeded in turning what had been rather meagre turnouts at our events into full houses by persuading people to come along in their numbers, especially the Quiz Night. Having got their details on board she would chase them up the following season to come again. Even the AGM, at which sometimes the Committee outnumbered the members, saw attendances rise considerably. Not content with this, she could be seen on match-days in her kiosk in the car park selling programmes, the sales of which also increased. Our hearts go out to John and their family. There was recently a memorial gathering at the ground to remember her, with a good attendance of both family and friends. Any donations are to be made to the Club Hampshire, a charity organisation for the welfare of the elderly, which she, along with John, had been instrumental in setting up. We also lost past and present members in Kathy Abbott, Derek Henderson and Ron Humphreys.

On the playing front, Ian Barkus, Arthur Burgess, Derrick Draffan, Micky Holifield, Ron Rafferty, John Reardon, Peter Roystone, Jack Timberlake, Cliff Trott, Jim Truett, Michael Wicks and Dave Worley, along with Physio Dave Springell are no longer



with us, except in spirit. Again, our thoughts are with families and friends.



#### ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

Although we were not able to watch much of it physically, I'm sure most of us followed last season's action on either our computers or television whenever possible. The Football League highlights on Quest are always a good watch and presenter Colin Murray definitely has a soft spot for us. At one time he highlighted some of the awful decisions that ultimately proved crucial in our relegation back to League One. Some people say that luck evens itself out over the season, but it doesn't. Those at the top have much more going their way than those at the bottom, as we found out the previous season, although we were superb in the play-off matches and deserved to go up. As someone who was there when we were knocked out of the Amateur Cup to City of Norwich SOBU on a pitch in a military barracks, to see us play in the Championship is really living the dream. What is pleasing is that, apart from a handful of games, we more than held our own against some mighty clubs (in football terms) and the future certainly looks good.

While it is disappointing to lose players like Fred and Uche, it is great to have Josh Scowen back in the fold. The squad already looks nice and solid, although a proven goal scorer would be an asset.

## Where are they now?

With all that has been going on I haven't really taken much notice of who is playing where but endeavour to keep a watchful eye on our ex-players this season.



Five years ago, the opening League Two fixture of the season took us to Crawley, where we lost to a solitary goal on the hour mark, after sustaining a number of injuries. Scott Brown, Luke

O'Nien and Myles Weston made their debuts, and all picked up injuries that kept them out for some time. Weston, in fact, only lasted 13 minutes before being replaced by Matt Bloomfield, while Brown's injury wasn't discovered fully until after the match. Our line-up that afternoon was: Brown, Harriman (Jombati), Jacobson, Bean, Stewart, Pierre, G. Thompson, O'Nien (Akinfenwa), Southwell, Weston (Bloomfield), Wood.

Ten years ago, we were newly promoted to League One and started with a home fixture against Scunthorpe. James Tunnicliffe, Joel Grant and John Halls were debutants and Tunnicliffe got off to a perfect start by heading home from a corner in the 23rd minute. The visitors equalised five minutes before the interval and that's how it finished, although Gareth Ainsworth was unlucky when his shot hit the post early in the second half. Following a fracas involving several players in stoppage time, Ben Strevens was dismissed for a second yellow card. we lined up as follows: Bull, Foster, Sandell, Halls, Winfield, Tunnicliffe, Ainsworth (Beavon), Strevens, Rendell, Donnelly, Grant (K. Harris)

Going back twenty years, the opening Division Two (now League one) fixture took us to Cardiff's old Ninian Park Stadium. In front of a crowd of 17,000 we lost again by the only goal, scored by Gabbidon in the 17th minute. After looking for a while that a heavy defeat was on the cards, we fought back and could easily have taken a point. The line-up was: Taylor, Cousins, Vinnicombe, Rogers, P. McCarthy, Steve Brown, Currie, Bulman (Senda), Rammell (Ryan), Simpson, McSporran (Holligan). Both



Darren Currie and Gavin Holligan were making their debuts.

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this. Please tell your friends about us and remember, if there is anything that you wish to be included in the future, please contact me at [dfinch105@btinternet.com](mailto:dfinch105@btinternet.com). Until next time please be sensible and stay safe.

Dave Finch  
(OWWSA Committee & Newsletter Editor)