



Welcome to the latest edition. I hope that you will enjoy it and find something of interest.

### COMMITTEE



We really need some more people on the committee after losing both Keith Blagbrough and Marion Lunnon recently. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all of their years of service and they will prove hard to follow. We had hoped that Lawrie Read would be a most welcome addition. However, after attending one of our meetings, he chose not to commit himself further. Thanks anyway Lawrie. For the foreseeable future we have decided to soldier on without a Chairman as none of us wanted to stand. Any offers out there? Being on the committee does not take up too much time, with meetings every 6-7 weeks plus any social events.

### **AGM**

We were concerned that, due to the circumstances at present and with several members sending apologies for non-attendance at the recent AGM, numbers would be very low. However, over 30 did attend and it went very well. After the official business there was a question and answer session with Matt Bloomfield, backed up by Alan Cecil and Tony Hector. Thanks to all three for some interesting discussion. Thanks also to Val Astrop who provided the refreshments free of charge.

### *Social* Events

Obviously it has been difficult to try and make any arrangements. We have decided though to start in the New Year and are looking for a Bingo Night towards the end of January to monitor numbers. As soon as anything is decided you will be informed



### TRAVEL

Again, things have been difficult as people gradually get used to some sort of norm. With the continued support and generosity of Roger Mott (for which we can't thank him enough) we have made a decision to provide a coach for every away League game.

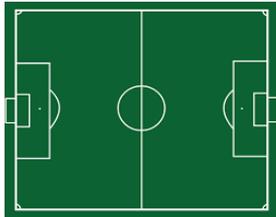
Bookings for Plymouth on the 23rd of this month will therefore be taken in the usual way, although be aware that the Portsmouth game could fall victim to International call-ups.

For Bank transfer details please email our Treasurer Michelle Phillips [treasurer@owwsa.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@owwsa.co.uk) and she will send you details on how to book.

This is also a reminder, after a recent incident, that no alcohol whatsoever is allowed on any of our coaches. If stopped by the police and any is found on board then they will send the coach straight back to where it started from.



It was with great sadness to hear about the death of Billy Gallacher recently. He played for us in the mid-sixties, mainly in the Reserves with a handful of first team games. After leaving he played for Aylesbury United. Off the field his great love was Rock and Roll music, especially Elvis Presley. He fronted a band called Billy and the Bonquas before doing solo Elvis impression themed sessions at local venues. Lynden and I often saw his monthly stint, along with ex-players Keith Samuels and Colin Bunting, at the Crown at Hazlemere. A good time was always had by all. I'm sure he will be doing his entertaining now in higher places !



ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

Despite the football lesson handed out by Ipswich on Tuesday, we have made an amazing start to the season, breaking a record for the

most consecutive home Football League wins in the process. There have been a host of early goals and two last gasp winners, which has been a feature over the last few seasons. Garath McCleary has been a revelation and I hope that he won't be out of action for too long. He was sorely missed against Ipswich, as was Curtis Thompson. Garath leads the goalscoring followed by defender Ryan Tafazolli and new signings Sam Vokes and Brandon Hanlan, who have both settled in nicely. It is also great to see Josh Scowen back performing in a blue and blue shirt. If we can keep our form going forward (hopefully Tuesday was just a blip) then I see no reason why we can't be thereabouts come the end of the season. I think we often have to remind ourselves about some of the big clubs we are up against.

# Where are they now?

I will start this piece with the news that one of our all-time legends, Len Worley, is on the mend after suffering a heart attack. Apparently although he has been told he can start to get out and about he is frustrated that he can't play tennis at the moment. Len is 84 !

The National League is good for spotting some of our ex-players. Alan Massey, who was a regular in the Youth Team and Reserves has been captain of Maidenhead United for several seasons now. Partnering him in the centre of defence is Will DeHavilland.

Another captain is Sam Wood at Dover Athletic. Much-travelled Junior Morias is now playing for King's Lynn Town. Alongside him is Brett McGavin,

the son of Steve, who made 140 appearances for us between 1994 and 1999. Steve works for Norwich City these days, where he is head of recruitment.

Sutton United surprised everyone, including themselves, in gaining promotion into the Football League at the end of last season. They have adapted extremely well and part of their success for some time now has been Craig Eastmond, an excellent midfielder who we had on loan from Arsenal in the latter stages of the 2011-12 season. Amongst the goals recently have been Angelo Balanta (Dagenham) and Max Kretschmar (Woking).

Further afield is news of Sam Stockley's latest appointment. He finished his playing career in the United States at Carolina Railhawks. After coaching roles there and in Wales (at Llandudno) he is now Sporting Director at Lexington Pro Soccer. Staying in the States, Jamal Blackman is there playing for LA F. C.



As this is being compiled just before the FA Cup game at Hartlepool, I thought that I would look back at some previous first round matches. Five years ago, we travelled to Portsmouth, where Paris

Cowan-Hall gave us the lead midway through the first half. Gareth Evans equalised for Pompey early in the second half, before Ade Akinfenwa scored with a looping header with six minutes left to seal a memorable win. That was the start of a run to the fourth round. After beating Chesterfield 5-0 away, with a Scott Kashket hat-trick, and Stourbridge at home, we had that wonderful afternoon out at White Hart Lane. Two late Tottenham goals saw them win 4-3. The line-up at Fratton Park was: Blackman, Harriman, Jacobson, Gape, Stewart, Pierre, Cowan-Hall (Weston), Bloomfield, Hayes (G. Thompson), Akinfenwa (Bean), O'Nien.



Ten years ago we were drawn away to then non-league Fleetwood Town. A Jamie Vardy inspired team gave us the run around, with him scoring the second in a 2-0 win. (I wonder what happened to him!). This was the third time we had been beaten in the cup by a non-league side after Basingtoke (1997-98) and Eastwood (2008-09). Our team was: Bull, Foster, Basey, Rowlands (Ibe), Winfield (Benyon), L. Johnson, J. Grant, Lewis, Strevens, Donnelly, Harris (Rendell)

Going back to twenty years ago it was another trip to non-league opposition, Hayes. Obviously fancying an upset, it was chosen as a televised match and played on a Friday night. The armchair supporters were certainly served up some entertainment as the game ebbed and flowed. Andy Rammell gave us a 24th minute lead before Hayes went in front through Kevin Warner and Dean Clark. Darren Currie then equalised dead on half-time. Both Rammell (74) and Currie (84) scored in the second half to give us a two-goal lead. Hayes weren't done though and substitute David Warner pulled one back. They then caused all sorts of problems but we just about held out for the win.

The next round saw a comfortable 3-0 home win over Notts County to see us given another home tie with Fulham. They gained a rather fortunate 2-2 draw before seeing us off 1-0 at Craven Cottage. We lined up at Hayes like this: Taylor, Senda (Cousins), Vinnicombe, Simpson, P. McCarthy, Rogers, Currie, Brown (Bulman), Rammell, Holligan (Carroll), Roberts.

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)