



Welcome to the latest edition to members and non-members alike. I hope that you are enjoying your summer and looking forward to the new season. Hopefully, you will all be renewing your Membership soon. Details as to how you can do this are below.

MEMBERSHIP

Existing members no longer have to fill in any forms and can pay by cash in person at the Ground or on the coach to Membership Secretary Graham Roberts, or by cheque (made payable to OWWSA) either again in person or to him at

2 Cornwall Lodge,
Courtlands,
Maidenhead,
SL6 2PS.

You can also pay by bank transfer-

Sort code: 20-40-71

Account No: 30961116

Ref: Your name.

Any problems or any change in your personal details please phone him 07876267301 or e-mail him at membership@owwsa.co.uk.

Cost is £12 for the season for all.

Please please note for members 16 or under there will be a Stadium tour organised later on in the season. All non-members must fill in a form, which can be downloaded from our website www.owwsa.co.uk

SOCIAL EVENTS

Dates for our increasingly popular events are as follows:

AGM- Thursday, 19 October

Race Night- Friday, 17 November

Quiz Night- Friday, 12 January

Annual Dinner- Friday, 9 March.

Final details will follow as the season unfolds.

TRAVEL



The final away game of last season saw 29 of us travel up to Morecambe on the Friday and return on the Monday after a very successful and



enjoyable weekend, although obviously it would have been better if the Blues could have gained all three points.

We left Adams Park at 9:30 on the Friday morning and spent an hour and a bit in Blackpool before heading onto the Headway Hotel along the front at Morecambe. There was entertainment each evening, including a very funny duo, Josh and Sarah, on the Sunday, while the food was excellent with a varied choice each day.

On the Sunday, our driver Dave, who was an absolute star as usual, took us on a tour of the Lakes. We stopped at Bowness for a boat ride on Lake Windermere and then the lovely village Hawkshead, where William Wordsworth went to the local Grammar School, which is still there and open to the public (although not on a Sunday!)

We then returned to our hotel via a ride round Coniston Water, where the scenery was stunning on a fine afternoon.



A surprisingly trouble-free journey home via the M6 and M40 saw us arrive back at Adams Park around about 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon. I would like to thank all of my fellow travellers for their company and, in particular, Rena for her wonderful organisation. All travel details for the forthcoming season will be available on our website, at www.owwsa.co.uk.

MEMBERS WITH LONGSTANDING RECORDS OF SUPPORT

Whilst on the Morecambe trip I took the opportunity to have a chat to Laurie and Angela Brennan, both of whom go back sixty years in their support of the Blues.

Angela's first memory is of watching the 1957 Amateur Cup Final against Bishop Auckland on her parents'



black and white television. It was then the following season that she was taken to games at Loakes Park with the whole of the family, viewing from the fence in front of the 'Cowshed'.

As she got older, although her support was never far away, she couldn't always get to games due to work and non-football loving boy friends. This was to change when she met Laurie at a Beaconsfield United Christmas dinner in 1979.

Laurie had started going to Loakes Park to watch his neighbour, Terry Long, play for the Blues in the 1954/55 season. Like Angela, he wasn't always able to get to games as he spent five seasons playing for Beaconsfield.

Neither of them could believe their good fortune though in meeting another supporter and romance soon blossomed, leading to their marriage the following September 20th (which is amazingly the date Lynden and I got married, although that was in 1969).

So the Blues have more strings to their bow!

The rest is now history and the couple very rarely miss a game, home or away, along with their friends Ken and Alison Robertson. Despite the very many players they have seen appear for the Blues, they both name that wonderful midfielder from the 1970s, Micky Holifield, as their favourite player.

Footnote: Terry Long, born in Tylers Green, surprisingly made just five first team appearances before signing for Crystal Palace at the end of that 1954/55 season. He stayed at Selhurst Park for 13 years, making in excess of 450 appearances.

Don't forget, if you have been watching the blues for over forty years, please get in touch so that I can include you in a future newsletter.



ALAN HODGSON



Apart from the fact that it was his birthday while we were in Morecambe, the news came through that Alan had been chosen as the Volunteer of the Year.

This had been announced at the Club's annual awards dinner. Alan, who attends matches with his wife Margaret, spends a great deal of time helping to make Adams Park an enjoyable place to visit.

Among his many jobs, he trims back the grass and bushes around the ground, paints whatever is needed and jet-washes the car park. He is a vital part of John and Sandie Derben's volunteer team, alongside Lisa Bowker and Graham Roberts, who were also nominated for the Award. Well done mate and richly deserved!

R. I. P.

There have been two sad losses recently. First, there was the unexpected death of Ian Nixon, due to a terrible accident caused by the high winds. Ian was the Chairman of the Independent Supporters Club and was a long-standing supporter, along with his daughters, Alice and Clare. Only the week before, he had contacted me regarding a player from the late 60s and it is hard to take in that he will no longer be seen in the Caledonian (Vere) Suite before and after matches. It will be a lonelier place without him.

Following on from this, ex-player Peter Martin passed away. He joined us during the 1967-68 season and played regularly for the Reserves as a defender until they were disbanded at the end of the following season. He made just eight competitive first team appearances though, including the 1968 Final of the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup against Slough Town. We came back from two down to win this game 3-2 at Chesham. He was also involved in an unusual event on 23 May 1968 when we played Corinthian-Casuals at Loakes Park in



the Semi-Final of the A.F.A. Invitation Cup. Casuals only had the bare eleven players and one of them sustained an injury. As we were winning the game very comfortably, we allowed Peter to appear as a substitute for them! We actually went on to win the game 7-0. After leaving the Club, he went on to play for, and captain, Ernest Turner Sports in the Hellenic League. They folded in 1974 and I saw him play in their last ever match against Pressed Steel at their lovely ground at Totteridge in the April of that year. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of both.

ON THE FIELD

Despite an excellent performance and win in our last game of the season, we missed out by a point for a play-off place.

However, it was a good season after a poor start and, as well as a chance of the play-offs, there were two cup runs to savour.

Who will ever forget that wonderful afternoon at White Hart Lane! Can't help thinking though that those cup

runs ultimately hampered our league chances with five consecutive away Tuesday night games immediately following the Tottenham game. Most of these involved long distances as well. With a host of injuries and little time between games for recovery our squad was stretched to the limit. However, with the majority of the squad already committed to the new season there is much to look forward to.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON



A belated congratulations to Ade Akinfenwa, who was chosen by you, the members, as OWWSA's player of the season. The big man has been a revelation since joining the Club and is a credit to his profession. He



always has time for the supporters, particularly the younger ones, and not just those of the Blues. He receives a warm welcome everywhere. It was great news to hear that he has signed another contract.

He also received the Away Player of the Season, voted on the coach by the supporters after each away game, with the number of times chosen added up over the course of the season to decide the winner.



The Young Player of the Season award, which is voted on by your Committee, went to Scott Kashket, who but for injuries would surely have scored in excess of twenty

goals. Let us hope he stays injury-free this coming season.

FOOTBALL MATTERS

Despite record low attendances, the Football League is continuing with B teams in the League Trophy (I won't call them Under 21s while teams field 30 year old players). Although last season was supposed to be a trial, the cynic in me always thought it was a done deal. I will re-iterate that I see no Football value whatsoever in playing these sides and I believe, judging by attendances, that a large percentage agrees with me. I still want to know how the powers-that-be would sell the Final to the public at large if two of these teams reached Wembley.

The other thing I would like explained is why we have to play Carlisle away on a Tuesday night. The main problem is that the away supporters of clubs, the lifeblood, are the people that are considered the least by the FA, the Football League, the TV companies and even the Clubs themselves. Otherwise there wouldn't be ridiculous fixtures like this. On a Saturday we would take at



least 200 there. Midweek however involves time off for those at work and cost of possible overnight stay. Even for those of us who are retired it is an extremely time-consuming (not to mention tiring) trip, getting home at silly o'clock in the morning. Gareth and his players are always praising the support and highlighting the importance of it. Surely they want to see as many as possible there and not the handful that are likely to be. So come on, someone in authority, give me one logical reason for this madness! I realise we are not alone and other Clubs' supporters will be having long evening journeys. I also haven't mentioned another evening trip to Accrington but have got so used to this game regularly being on a Tuesday night, I took it as read! Please note, as always, the above article is my opinion and not necessarily that of OWWSA and I am grateful for John to allow me to inform you all of things that are going on in the Football World.

INFO WANTED

I am in the throes of compiling an all-time players' list. When I did the research over 20 years ago for the

Official History Book I spent what seemed like an eternity in Wycombe library reading every match report in the Bucks Free Press going back to the club's formation in 1887. I made a note of every available line-up and goalscorer where possible. Unfortunately though, until the early 1960s very few Christian names were mentioned. Sometimes not even the player's initials were given. If any of you out there have had any relatives that played for the Club can you please contact me with any details. It would be nice to know something about them rather than just a surname.

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 the next edition, please contact me on 07484 723982 or mail me at dfinch105@btinternet.com. I would be really glad to hear from you. Also can you please make any friends who are not members aware of what we are about.

Dave Finch (OWWSA Committee)