



Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter, later than planned. This is due to waiting for the outcome of the big vote. As usual I hope that you enjoy reading it. Please pass it on to friends and relatives to show them that we are much more than a travel club.



As it is possibly the most important event in the Club's history, I thought I would start, on behalf of the Association, by welcoming Rob, Missy, Peter Couhig and Mark Palmer to the Club. I truly hope that they will be around for a long time.

Although we all love the idea of being supporter owned, it is clear that if the Club is not to just survive at this level but to progress further then investment is needed. I, for one, have been more than impressed with the way they have regularly mingled and made themselves known to supporters, both home and away. How many owner's wives at other clubs have gone around handing out car stickers! Some clubs' owners never set foot in the Country.



I hope those of you who attended our recent AGM enjoyed it as much as I did.

After the formal business, which included Lynden, Rena, Steve and myself being re-elected (although nobody had come forward to stand for election against us!), there was a very informative forum with Matt Bloomfield, David Cook, Peter Couhig and Mark Palmer. Our thanks to them for their time.



By the time that some of you receive this our first ever Bingo Night would have been held. Let's hope it was a success, as our sub-committee (led by Sue) have been very busy in organising it.

The next event is the Quiz Night on Friday, 21 February. For details and to enter teams contact Sue on 01494 916117 or 07730 497745.



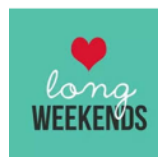
I realise I haven't mentioned previously but guess most of you are aware that your Committee agreed to carry on our sponsorship of Richard Dobson for the season.

Disappointingly, it doesn't appear on the Players' page in the programme, where it has in previous seasons. There is however a brief mention on Gareth's page.



As often happens in football when league and cup mix you can play the same opposition on two consecutive weekends. We find ourselves travelling to Tranmere for our next two away games on Saturday, 9 and Sunday 17 September.

On the first occasion, for the FA Cup match, departure time from Adams Park is 9 o'clock, while for the league game it is the unearthly time of 6 o'clock. As usual, all the powers that be totally ignore the most important people, the loyal away supporters. Cost for both games is £26 for adult members, with the regular discounts for senior and junior members. For all non-members it is £31.



For our last but one away game of the season, at Lincoln on Saturday, 18th April, we are planning a weekend trip, going on the Friday and returning on the Monday.

Anyone interested please let Rena know so she can sort details out with Roger Mott.

For all trips Rena can be contacted on 01494 520179 and Graham on 07876 267301 (no texts though) or see them in their booth in the corridor of the Vere Suite.



Our recent performances have been nothing short of marvellous and I am beginning to wonder if anything is possible. Keeping our feet on the ground though, obviously the main aim is to survive and build on last season's 17th place finish.

We however are not only rubbing shoulders with much bigger clubs but getting good results against them. This is without three of our attacking options in Fred Onyedina, Alex Samuel and Paul Smyth. Although it has been a team effort, the defence have been magnificent, with the returning Darius Charles outstanding.

To put things into perspective, Sunderland were restricted to just one shot on target (admittedly it produced a wonderful save from Ryan Allsop) while Rotherham never troubled him at all.

Well done to Ade Akinfenwa who passed 150 appearances for us recently. He is also one short of becoming only the second player to score 50 goals for us as a Football League team. Nathan Tyson leads the way with 53, while Dave Carroll finished his time at Adams Park with 49.



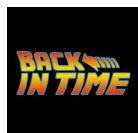
Lyn and I spent a day recently in the wonderful company of Paul Dennis, our Club photographer for many years. He lives in Maidstone and informed us that

Stuart Lewis, who had been playing for Maidstone United, has stopped doing so to concentrate on coaching at Tottenham, where he is involved in the Youth set-up.

Continuing with the Stones, it's good to see Matty McClure amongst the goals for them, including a hat-trick against St Albans.

Others on the scoresheet recently for their clubs were: Matt Harrold (Leyton Orient), Joel Grant (Plymouth), Josh Umerah and Gozie Ugwu (Ebbsfleet), Scott Rendell (Eastleigh) and Randell Williams (Exeter). Michael Harriman also scored during his debut for Northampton but unfortunately it was in his own net!

Further afield, Junior Morias is playing in Scotland for St. Mirren.



Five years ago on the first Saturday in November we continued our good start to the League Two season with a 2-1 win at Oxford United. Danny Hylton, from the penalty spot, gave them an interval lead.

However, second half goals from Paul Hayes and Peter Murphy (both in a rich vein of form) saw us to victory.

Our line-up was : Ingram, Jombati, Jacobson, Scowen, Mawson, Pierre, Bloomfield (Kretschmar, Murphy, Hayes (Rowe), Craig (Ephraim), Wood.

Ten years ago saw us struggling at the wrong end of League One and, when Walsall visited Adams Park, we had one just the one win in 14 games. Gary Waddock had recently been appointed manager after the dismissal of Peter Taylor and he must have been pleased at half-time as two goals from Reading loanee Scott Davies, the second a stunning 40-yarder, saw us in the driving seat. However, defensive frailties saw that lead evaporate as Walsall went on to win 3-2.

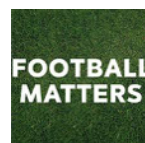
The team line-up was: Shearer, Hunt, Woodman, L. Johnson, Duberry, Davies, Betsy, Doherty, Harrold (Pittman), Zebroski (Bloomfield), M. Phillips. The attendance that afternoon was 5,046.

Twenty years ago it was F. A. Cup weekend and a home game against non-league opposition Oxford City, old rivals from our Isthmian League days. They proved more than

worthy opponents and it took until the 66th minute to break them down with a goal from Michael Simpson. They weren't beaten though and Pierson equalised with five minutes left.

Our line-up was: Taylor, Rogers, Beeton, Cousins, Bates, Simpson, Brown (Harkin), Ryan, Baird, Devine, McSporrnan (Emblen).

The replay, ten days later, was also played at Adams Park and finished 1-1 after extra time. However, just as the penalty shoot-out was about to get under way, a fire was reported in the away end and the game was abandoned for safety reasons! It turned to be nothing serious though, just a small electrical fire that was faulty. When the game was re-staged, it was at Oxford United's Manor Ground (sadly long gone) and a single goal from Steve Brown finally saw off the plucky non-leaguers.



It saddens me at the ever-increasing reports of racism in the game at all levels and it is about time that the various football authorities clamped down hard on the offenders, instead of the token fines and games being played behind closed doors, etc.

Countries and Clubs should be thrown out of cup competitions and banned from entering them again until they get their act together if it's proved their supporters are guilty. Perhaps points deductions for repeated offences during league matches may make clubs take things seriously. I realise the problem is not confined to football but wouldn't it be good for the sport to lead the way in addressing it.

I personally cannot get my head around what difference it makes what colour, creed or religion a person is. As far as I'm concerned whoever wears the light and dark blue shirt is one of my players and that should be the only way to regard him.



I was introduced to Mark Palmer at the Portsmouth match and he expressed an interest in contributing to the Newsletter. This is what he had to say:

Wow!....writing this I am so pleased that everything has worked out the way that it has. When I introduced Rob to a potential opportunity at Wycombe Wanderers F. C. back in June this year, little did I know that by the time of writing this we would have been endorsed by the Legacy membership as new majority owners.



We are so pleasantly overwhelmed by the amount of backing and faith you, the fans, have shown in us. The way the supporters, staff and the community have made us feel at home and the welcome we have received has absolutely amazed not only myself, but also Rob, Missy and Peter. With this feeling of togetherness I know that anything can be achieved.

This season has started off on an unbelievable high on the field and the squad that Gareth and his staff have assembled are, in my opinion, real contenders in this league, to such an extent that I don't think even the most optimistic of fans could really have expected to be where we actually find ourselves today. The challenge that we all face now, I feel, is to take stock of where we are, remember where the Club has come from to get here and to remain true to our core values.

The important thing now is to build upon this great start, keep together as a "family"...which is fundamentally Club, players, staff, supporters and community.

Our challenge as new majority owners is to ensure that we take this Club forward on a sustainable model that allows it to thrive on the field, in the stadium pre-match, during the match and post-match, whilst growing and leading the Club into a new era responsibly. We hope to build on initiatives that we have already introduced, such as the new ticketing system and the Chairboys Village. We also appreciate that there are many areas for improvement and, although we understand we cannot solve everything overnight and all at once, at the same time Rob, Missy, Peter and myself are ready for the challenges that lay ahead and are already working on many of the issues.

Community is also important to us and we aim to get very involved in the wider community and the business community, as well as looking to work alongside many of the charities that are vital to our communities.

Leading this Club into a new era is a privilege and an honour that we don't take lightly and we appreciate the foresight of the existing Trust board, the Legacy membership and Club board that have shown faith in Rob and his vision to lead us all into this important phase in the Club's history. We are determined to pay back this faith by proving ourselves as good stewards of this great Club and personally I cannot wait to get working with you all in this exciting journey that we are taking together. Come on you Chairboys !

My thanks to Mark for that. I am hoping that he will now be a regular contributor.

As usual the views on anything football-wise are mine and not necessarily those of the Committee. If anyone has any comments regarding the content of this newsletter or have anything they would like to see included please contact me on 07484 723982 or dfinch105@btinternet.com.

Dave Finch (Editor & OWWSA Committee Member)