

# TOUCHLINE

## Wootton Bassett Town F.C. Newsletter Issue No.: 10 (Summer 2012)

**WELCOME** Last season was a season of change, with Paul Harrison stepping down as Chairman and Ian Thomas, Club Secretary, posted to the Falkland Islands. I would like to thank Paul for his commitment to the club, as a player through to being chairman; also a special thanks to Paul Curtis who picked up Ian's match day duties over the last five months.

Over the last few months I have been working with the Exec to share some of the responsibilities across a wider group. Running our club carries the same responsibilities as running a business, specifically around financial management, and this responsibility is best shared as a group rather than loaded onto a single individual. Looking forward I can see more change as we look to take on the pain required to allow our club to relocate. Our senior section will take the brunt of this, specifically around a possible ground share which may take effect next calendar year. Our efforts over the next few months will be to obtain sponsorship for our senior section, as we drive to bring our senior section closer to help enable player development. We are also looking to re-design our website a little in readiness for the new season, so please keep an eye on developments at [www.wbtfc.co.uk](http://www.wbtfc.co.uk).

We are one of the largest volunteer-run clubs in the county, if not the largest, and as a club achieve on and off the field of play. This would not be possible without our volunteers - you know who you are. So from me to you, "thank you" and I'm looking forward to the new season and the challenges that it will bring.

**-ANDY WALDUCK, CHAIRMAN**

**SENIOR SECTION** At the end of another season, we can put away the brushes, fold away the kit and take some time to look back at was another eventful campaign.

The start was difficult: the closed season confirmed our demotion to Division One West due to the infamous covered standing area. We were not sure how people were going to react; all the hard work across the club to stay in the Premier Division was now being questioned. But once again everyone stood shoulder to shoulder and gave a very clear message back to the Hellenic League that WBTFC would not be beaten and that we would regroup and come back stronger. We thank everyone at the club for their support during this difficult time.

We have had massive support through the club supporting our games both home and away so many thanks for the net crew Gordy, Dave and Carl not forgetting Karen and Charlotte. Thanks also to Roger and Steve for ensuring all matches are ready to play, to Woody and Ian, Gill and not forgetting our new tea hut Chef Urk who has raised hundreds of pounds with his famous burger and chips!!

We have also seen a change at the top with Paul Harrison standing down as chairman and Andy Walduck replacing him: a big thanks to both. The U18s Floodlit team with Danny and Ray has continued their excellent record finishing the season runners up following from their champions spot the previous year. We have again produced young talent that have represented the county and will continue to assist in the future of WBTFC. Danny has worked tirelessly over the last few years and has decided to step down as under 18s manager this season. This has allowed us to review the under18s this coming year and we will be entering a senior side in the Wiltshire League on a Saturday, which will replace the floodlit side going forward. Despite many comments I have heard, Danny remains committed to this club and will continue in a new role next season. I would like to thank both Danny and Ray for all their efforts over the last few years.

The reserves continued where they left off finishing in third place, the highest place a WBTFC reserves side has finished in a lot of years so congratulations to the two Simons, Paish and Packer. They have continued to push through local young players and have been rewarded throughout the season with some exceptional performances from their young team. Both have committed to manage the reserves again for next season.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Team had to regroup at the start of the season and in some ways the demotion had some impact in the early months. But Dave has shown great loyalty to the club in difficult circumstances and although promotion back to the Premier was not achieved I am sure that planning for next season has already begun in earnest. Dave also loses two good people in Alan Blake and Luke Sharpe and we wish them good fortune in the future though I am sure we will see them back at the club watching next season.

I would also like to thank Amy Tye and Lisa Vicat, our two physios who have turned out every game and who have even spent their own time during the week to help the walking wounded. As some of you are aware Ian Thomas has gone missing since December. Some say he has gone Penguin hunting in the Falklands, but we just know he went to find a new royal friend! We were very fortunate to have Paul Curtis stand in for Ian during this period and he has done a great job, thanks Paul. A special thanks need to go to Mark Smedley, who despite being in Aussie for the last six months has continued to complete the programme, along with Scott and Stuart Smedley for their work on the website. Finally a big thank you to the sponsors of the club whose continued support allows us to develop the Senior Section of WBTFC.

To the players and supporters of WBTFC: you are the club and all the effort and time would not be beneficial without your continued support. Let's all look forward to next season

**-CHRIS JONES, HEAD OF SENIOR SECTION**



**YOUTH SECTION** As yet another season draws to a close and we approach the summer months I feel it an ideal opportunity to reflect upon and, perhaps, explain the logistical and financial restraints encountered in running our club's youth section.

Although your contact and communications with the club are mainly through your respective team managers, the bulk of the work within our section falls on the shoulders of our secretary Gill Gascoigne and her assistant (husband Erk!) – the countless hours of unpaid voluntary work conducted by them are critical in the operation of our 16 youth teams. I am sure I speak for all of you in extending our sincere thanks for everything she does in making all our lives easier ..... and long may she continue in this role!

I will attempt to answer some of the most common questions raised by our player's parents:

**What are the monthly payments to WBTFC for?** This is a training fee only! Players selected to play for a team will play free of charge. As stated the club is run solely by volunteers and the one fixed fee per registration is by far the simplest to administer.

**Why do we pay for 12 months and not just the season?** It is felt that spreading the net cost over a 12-month period would ease the financial burden on the parents. It is also simpler to set up one standing order with your bank rather than a stop/start system.

**What are these monthly direct debit payments used for?** The bulk of our annual expenses are taken up by facilities hire (pitches for training and playing) – this cost for this season is in the region of £21,000! Another £5,000 will be spent on referees, league fees and insurance policies. With a further £10,000 attributed to kit, footballs and other equipment you will quickly see how the bulk of the income is spent.

**Why does the manager rotate players and not play his "strongest team" / or Why does the manager always play the same players and not rotate?** As an FA Community Development club we only utilise qualified coaches, and not only follow the FA Long Term Player Development philosophy, but also our own in-house club development plan. Each child will progress at different rates and therefore coaching and playing requirements should be adapted to meet those needs. We are attempting to introduce a "play without fear philosophy" within the club. Players need to feel confident to express themselves on the pitch without the fear of "letting down" their manager or parents. In youth football the winning at all costs mentality must be driven out..... We should be giving the players all the tools and skills required to progress in the game and above all ...."To play for maximum enjoyment with the full support of all."

**What can I do if I have a question/reservation regarding my child's progress?**

In the first instance fully discuss the matter with your child's manager/coach. Ask questions and attempt to receive answers / reassurances regarding the problem. Lack of dialogue or clear communication is usually at the crux of most misunderstandings.

If you still feel as though the matter has not been addressed, please feel free to escalate to either myself (07778936868) or the Club Development Officer – Jeff Tidy (07768466760).

Finally, a big thanks to all our parents and players for their continued support of the club. We hope to see you either at the club's Six-a-Side tournament on 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> June or when welcoming you back for next season.

Yours in sport,

**-PETE YEARDLEY, HEAD OF YOUTH SECTION**

**WOMEN'S & GIRLS' SECTION** With the Ladies' season now finished and the team securing second place in Division Two, I feel it is only right for me to thank my assistant who has helped me run the Ladies side for the last 3 seasons in the Gloucestershire County League. I am very thankful to Greg Pilsworth: not only has he taken training, but on match days he did the warm up, ran the line, then, after the home games, took down the nets, cleaned the changing rooms, plus on away games gave the players lifts. Without Greg I would have stopped managing the Ladies side at the end of last season. His time and help have been invaluable to me and to the Women's and Girls' section as we have been involved together for 6 years plus. Greg, like myself, has stepped down from running the Ladies side for family reasons. I am hopeful we leave the side in good hands with two Ladies that have experience of running sides at this level, who also possess qualifications to match; I am hoping to confirm the new manager and assistant soon.

I will stay on as section head for the Women's and Girls' section. In this position I had the pleasure of going to the U15 Girls' presentation night at The Woodshaw. The U15 Girls had a new manager this season in Andy Townsend, assisted by Ian Menzies. I am grateful to both for taking on the team this season. They played again in the Wiltshire 9-a-side league and finished mid table, playing 15, winning 5, drawing 1 and losing 9. On the night the awards presented were: Clubman trophy to Hannah Townsend, Manager's Player of the Season to Hannah Granger and the Players' Player to Rachel Buchanan. Having talked with the parents on the night, many were hopeful the girls would step up and play for the Ladies team in the future and new players would always be welcome so the team can finally play 11-a-side next season. One more goal still not lost to me is to try and increase the number of Girls teams at Bassett, which will then help the Ladies team in the long term. With 3 more players going to university this year, the new manager of the Ladies team will again need to find players for next season and get the squad back up to at least 16. I have been able to start training at U10s and U11s with the help of Charlotte Burke on Thursday nights at the school from 6 till 7pm, but numbers are still low.

I feel very proud to be a part of Wootton Bassett Town Football Club. The time and effort that people give freely to this club is massive, and my last thank you is to my wife Fiona who allows me so much time doing other football related matters.

**-BRYAN WOOD, HEAD OF WOMEN'S & GIRLS' SECTION**



**HOLLAND EXCHANGE** – Every season, the highlight of the youth section calendar is the Holland Tour, an event that is always made special thanks to the generous hospitality offered by our Dutch hosts. And this year was no exception, as the under 12s, 15As and 16As enjoyed an action-packed week abroad.

As a club we were also faced with the unenviable task of reciprocating our Dutch friends' hospitality as sister club FC 's-Gravenvande visited twice in April. On the first occasion, their A1 team came for a brief two day trip, facing our under 18Bs at Rylands Way, while taking in the Reading-Leeds United and Brentford-Bury fixtures. Then from April 29<sup>th</sup> until May 2<sup>nd</sup>, four of their teams visited Bassett to complete the exchange; our sides had stayed with host families on the 2011 Holland Tour. As well as fixtures against our youth teams (all of which our visitors won!), their tour party enjoyed an excellent tour of Wembley Stadium, and visits to Chelsea's club shop and Thorpe Park. Following the matches on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup>, a successful social evening was held in the Rylands Way clubhouse.

On behalf of the Wootton Bassett Town committee AND FC 's-Gravenvande, thanks to everybody involved - especially the host families for putting up our guests. You helped make the exchange ANOTHER memorable occasion. Correspondence we have received from FC 's-Gravenvande since they returned has highlighted that the children who came over were sorry to leave England so soon!

It goes without saying that we're already looking forward to next year's trip to Holland, while our friends at 's-Gravenvande are more than welcome to visit us again!



### **OLD TEAM PHOTOS**

Our [Facebook](#) page has recently undergone a transformation, with team photos – ranging from as far back as 1897 – being added. For those who haven't done so already, please 'Like' our page and check the content out. Who knows, there could be a picture from your playing days or those of a relative! Facebook is also another great way to keep up to date with what is going on at the club. We are always on the lookout for more visual images of the club's rich history. So should you possess an old WBTFC team photo currently not part of our collection please get in touch with First Team Programme Editor Mark Smedley ([mark.smedley@wbtfc.co.uk](mailto:mark.smedley@wbtfc.co.uk)) or via our '[Contact Us](#)' page on the website.

### **RELOCATION UPDATE**

Positive news was received at the end of March regarding Wootton Bassett Sports Association's intended relocation as planning consent has now been issued on the sports site plans. It is hoped that works will commence on the new site by the end of this year. There is still a large amount to do before that takes place. But a new chapter in the history of the football club (as well as the cricket, tennis and running clubs) is becoming ever closer.

### **2012 TOURNAMENT**

**On the weekend of June 16<sup>th</sup> + 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting our annual 6-a-side tournament at Ballards Ash**

Over the years our competition has become one of the biggest and best not only in Wiltshire, but the whole of the south-west. However, without the help of volunteers – be they working on the car park, in the refreshments and BBQ tents, as runners or to set things up on the Friday – the weekend would be neither as organised nor successful as our lofty standards demand!

**So...if you are able to help, please get in touch!**

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Soccer Skills Academy:** Holiday Club (Rylands Way) June 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (Please note normal Monday night sessions for the Soccer Skills Academy will take place at [Noremarsch School](#) during the summer)

**EURO 2012 – as ever the Wootton Bassett Sports Association clubhouse at Rylands Way will be showing all of England's games live (as well as many others!)**

- So come along to cheer your country onto glory (maybe) in a family friendly atmosphere with drinks at very competitive prices (definitely)!
- **England fixtures:** v France (11<sup>th</sup> June, 5pm), v Sweden (15<sup>th</sup> June, 7.45pm), v Ukraine (19<sup>th</sup> June, 7.45pm)

**TO ALL PLAYERS, MANAGERS, COACHES, PARENTS & SUPPORTERS:  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE 2011/12 SEASON!  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEKING YOU AGAIN FOR THE 2012/13 CAMPAIGN!**

