

# TOUCHLINE

Wootton Bassett Town F.C. Newsletter Issue No.: 11 (Autumn 2012)

**WELCOME** We have kicked off the senior season - earlier than ever - with the first game being held on the 7<sup>th</sup> August. Our youth section is poised to kick in to action through September. I can confirm one change to the Executive Committee as Danny Groom has taken the role of Vice Chair - "welcome to the team Danny". Also you may have seen that Pete Yeardley and Paul Harrison have been awarded life membership. This is in recognition of their contributions to the club. Work around the relocation continued through the summer months. However, I can report a delay on our relocation timescales. I know this has been a common message, but I remain positive that I will be able to report some positive news well before December. As for the timings, I really hope that groundworks will commence early next year in time to allow for some grass growth through the spring.

The club is growing in readiness for our relocation. As we grow pressure on key areas around the club also increases, so we really need to share this workload. If you're able to help around match days for our senior section, or more urgently able to offer support around the administration for our youth section we would really like to hear from you.

Finally just a reminder about behaviour of our players, parents and coaches - the FA's Respect Campaign is still to be adhered to, as well as our own code of conduct. Enjoy the season and I wish all of our teams every success.

-ANDY WALDUCK, CHAIRMAN

**SENIOR SECTION** It has been a very busy close season with the usual comings and goings of players, and it has been very pleasing personally to welcome back two old players in Steve Yeardley and Matty Bennett.

The first team (pictured) have played only a few games and remain unbeaten in the league, while the reserves started their season with a very difficult home game against Highworth Town which they lost 4-2 and a 4-0 win against Shrivenham. The development squad, which for the first time play in the Wiltshire League on a Saturday, have started well with three wins and a defeat.

The FA Cup wins against Calne Town (4-2) and Hamwothy United (1-0) gave us a home draw in the First Qualifying round against local rivals Highworth Town which was played on Friday evening, 7<sup>th</sup> September. It was another successful and enjoyable game, the team winning 3-1 in front of a brilliant crowd of 299. Thanks to all those who came along for their fantastic support!

We have changed a few things around this year and are concentrating on a concerted effort to bring a unity within the senior section. This is always a difficult task as we have three very good sides who are all looking for good seasons, but all have communicated well and must continue to do so throughout the season ensuring that the club as a whole benefits.

We anticipated that we may have to move from Rylands Way as part of the relocation development during the middle period of the season, but this has now been postponed and will be reviewed later in the year

Finances are always difficult as we are wholly reliant on sponsors and fundraising and I would like to thank those who have already committed to this cause. It is also important to recognise the backroom assistance we have. There is a lot of time that goes into running a football club and we are always on the lookout for willing volunteers in any capacity. If you would like to help please let us know

Let's look forward to the season and support the best local team

-CHRIS JONES, HEAD OF SENIOR SECTION



**DEVELOPMENT TEAM** For the past few seasons the chance for the more talented players aged in the U16- U18 age bracket to play at a higher standard of football than the local North Wilts Youth League on Sundays was offered by the club's involvement in the Wiltshire FA U18 Floodlit League .This provided a good stepping stone which allowed those players who had the ability to further develop their skills by playing opposition of a higher calibre. And this approach has proved very successful in the past few seasons with at least 20 players progressing to represent the club at first team level and a few more at reserve team level. Current first teamers Steve Yeardley, Matt Bennett, Matt Bown, Jack Ellis and Aaron Dainton are all graduates of the Floodlit League side.

However a combination of Danny Groom stepping down from the role of Floodlit manager after a hugely successful three seasons at the helm and the increasingly frustrating administration of the league that led to infrequent football resulted in the club taking the bold decision to run a Development team in the adult Wiltshire Football league for the forthcoming season. This will allow those with the desire and ability the chance to continue to play for the club and hopefully progress through to first and reserve team level in the future. It will also provide a first taste of senior football for players who have stuck with Bassett from a young age and developed alongside one another. The club sees the way forward as rewarding those who have remained loyal to the club and give them an opportunity to progress further.

The joint management team for this season will be Wayne Petrie, who worked alongside Danny in the past at youth level, and club legend Dave Terry, who is also combining the role with that of U16s 'Blue' manager. Even though the season is in its infancy, it is evident that both have already instilled a great team spirit and set high standards. Being players who have played at a high level locally, they are also disciples of 'pass and move' football and this approach has resulted in the first two games being won with 15 goals being scored in the process. The future of club looks very bright. And it is hoped the Development side will make it even brighter.

### **YOUTH SECTION - Can you help the club? - Administration assistance urgently required.**

Following the rapid growth of the junior section of the club we now urgently require assistance on the administration side. With over twenty junior teams we now urgently need to put a team in place that can ensure the smooth running and continued growth of this important section of the club.

**What is involved?** - It is proposed to break the current Secretary's role into various smaller sections, thus lightening the load and sharing responsibilities amongst other ages in the club.

New roles considered will include: -

1/ Youth section fixture and pitch-booking assistant.

2/ Club Membership assistant.

3/ Social, publicity, events coordinator.

**What is required ?** - Access to a computer and a few voluntary hours spare a week (yes I know the last bit is difficult!!)

**Who do we require?** - Anyone interested in furthering the development of football within the club.

It is worth bearing in mind we all are volunteers and parents! We all entered into this because at some stage we had or still have children playing for the club. Gill, our current secretary, joined the club when her son was 10 and continues to undertake all the above roles herself!!!! She now needs urgent help.....

**The Future** – My aim is to create a small dedicated team all contributing to the continued success of the club and more importantly assist with the development of football within our community.

**Next Step** - If you would like to join this team or think you could assist in shaping the way the club evolves please contact either:

**Pete Yeardley** - 01793 854950 or 07778 936868 or **Gill Gascoigne**- 01793 840075 or 07891 458860

**The future of the club now relies on others to step forward so please do not leave it to others!!**

YOURS IN SPORT,

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

**LADIES & GIRLS SECTION** All change with the ladies side, with myself and Greg both stepping down at the end of last season for family reasons, which meant we both could not commit the time needed to run the side for a fourth season. The Ladies team now find themselves in the top division in the Gloucestershire County League after finishing second last season. Along with the promotion we have also entered the Women's FA Cup and have been drawn to play Southampton Ladies on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September at home (Rylands Way). It would be great if a large crowd could greet the team when they make their debut in this competition.

Having stood down from running the team, as Head of Section I then needed to find a manager to run the side for the coming seasons. I am more than happy that Ann Nicholas and Becky Gammon (pictured) quickly agreed to run the side with Ann as manager and Becky as her assistant. I would like to mention both are Level 2 qualified with years of experience in football.

The task this season will be difficult with the step up in division and the loss of players again due to university. To stay up in the division will be the main aim, whilst also trying to help some or all of the under 16s bridge the gap into Ladies' football. It is my hope that during the season the Ladies and under 16s will be training together.

Again at this time of year both teams are looking for players, new or old, and all would be welcome at training. For more details about the under 16 Girls or Ladies sides you can contact me via my mobile on 07847639406 or use the "Contact Us" link on the club website.

**-BRYAN WOOD, HEAD OF LADIES & GIRLS SECTION**



## CLUB DIRECTORY

**President** – Ron Stone

**Chairman** – [Andy Walduck](#) (07890 730905)

**Vice Chairman** - [Danny Groom](#) (07500 764275)

**Secretary** - [Ian Thomas](#) (07714 718122)

**Match Secretary** – [Paul Curtis](#) (07801 836946)

**Treasurer** - [Dave Topping](#) (01793 848343)

**Club Development Officer** - [Jeff Tidy](#)

**Head of Senior Section** - [Chris Jones](#) (07774 851563)

**First Team Manager** – Dave Turner (07710 350437)

**Reserve Team Manager** – Simon Paish

(07919 483800)

**Development Team Managers** – Wayne Petrie &

Dave Terry (07917 469344)

**Head of Youth Section** - [Pete Yeardley](#)

(07778 93868)

**Deputy Head of Youth** - [Nigel Deane](#)

**Youth Section Secretary** - [Gill Gascoigne](#)

(01793 840075)

**Head of Women and Girls' Section** - [Bryan Wood](#)

(07847 639406)

**Ladies' Manager** – Ann Nicholas (07785 660236)

**Soccer Skills Academy** – [Nick Bolton](#) (07745 230226)

**Press Officer** - [Stuart Smedley](#) (07985 367772)

**Website Editor** - [Scott Smedley](#) (07849 334072)

**Programme Compiler/Club Historian** - [Mark Smedley](#)

(07887 634887)

**Head of Facilities** – Steve Matthews

**Welfare Officer** - [Maggie Amos](#)

**Head of Events** - [Terry Embling](#) (07771 701557)

**Life Members** – Mick Woolford (1995), Rod Carter (2008), Roger Williamson (2008), Paul Harrison (2012), Pete Yeardley (2012)

## SOCCER SKILLS ACADEMY

*On Monday October 1<sup>st</sup> please note that the venue for SSA will change from Noremarsch School to indoors at Lime Kiln Sports Centre for Reception/Year One pupils (5-6pm) and Royal Wootton Bassett Academy Astro turf for Years Two to Eight (6-7pm).*

Last season WBTFc and Advance Sports Coaching Ltd formed a partnership and in January 2012 **The Soccer Skills Academy** was born!

This has so far proven to be a huge success with numbers increasing each week. Nearly sixty 5-13 year olds receive regular weekly coaching from Reading FC Academy coaches, allowing the SSA to support our youth section by providing players and helping improve their skills. *Monday evening sessions cost just £20 per calendar month.*

The SSA Holiday Camps have also seen a healthy rise in numbers with over 90 children attending the 3 football camps held over the summer holidays. Preparation are now underway to hold a half term camp in October and more details will appear on <http://wbtfc.co.uk/> soon.

## LIFE MEMBERS APPOINTED

Wootton Bassett Town held its AGM on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July at Rylands Way. And there, former Chairman Paul Harrison and current Head of Youth Section Pete Yeardley were appointed life members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the club over the years. They join Mick Woolford (1995), who managed the first team from 1985 to 1995 and guided the club from the Wiltshire League to the Hellenic League, long-time Club Secretary Rod Carter and former player and Treasurer Roger Williamson (both appointed 2009) in being awarded this exclusive honour.

Paul has spent over two and a half decades with the club. Beginning as a midfielder and key member of the highly successful Wootton Bassett Town teams of the 1980s under Woolford, 'H' – as he is commonly known – became Chairman in 1997, a post he held until 2004. During that period he helped set the foundations for the success of the club today: in 1999 floodlights were erected at Rylands Way, while the youth section grew so much that by the time he stood aside to concentrate on the relocation project the club was fielding 16 teams from under 7s upwards. Paul's playing days continued too, with a few brief appearances for the first team at the end of the 1990s and reserves in the new Millennium in which he demonstrated that class is permanent. He reassumed the role of Chairman in 2008 and would hold the post until late 2011 before stepping aside for incumbent Andy Walduck. This second spell saw further progress made with plans for the Sport Association's relocation to the extent that work is expected to start on the new site in the not too distant future.

Pete has had a heavy presence in both the senior and youth sections in the last decade and a half. As joint Reserve team manager with Paul Burke, he helped guide that team to an unbeaten championship winning season in 2000/01. A year later he assumed the reigns of the first team, who by now were in the Hellenic League Premier Division. With the odds stacked against Bassett for most of his period in charge, he guided the team to safety for three consecutive seasons before standing down midway through the 2004/05 campaign. During that time a number of promising young players – among them current first teamers Steve Yeardley and Matt Bennett - were given their first taste of senior football.

Alongside his contributions to the senior section, Pete has devoted countless hours coaching and supporting the youth section. He began his association with youth football in the town by coaching with Community Football from which a large number of players went on to join Bassett's junior sides. As Youth Section Head, he has ensured the number of sides the club runs continues to grow, assumed responsibility for organising the annual Holland Tour and has helped forge solid relationships with our friends in the Netherlands, especially sister club FC s'Gravenzande.

Together their contributions have helped transform the club into what it is today, and it is only fitting that they be recognised.



*You can subscribe to receive new editions of 'Touchline as soon as they are published by going to <http://wbtfc.co.uk/touchline.php> and entering your email address.*

**Wootton Bassett Town will be running FREE skills sessions on Saturday mornings (10-11) at Ballards Ash for boys and girls aged 5-12, beginning on 8<sup>th</sup> September. Sessions will be led by Jeff Tidy, a UEFA B licensed coach, and young club coaches. All are welcome to attend.**

