

Touchline

Wootton Bassett Town FC Newsletter Issue No. 14

Chairman's Welcome

We have had a very busy summer. Firstly I can confirm that Mark Smedley is now President of our club. Mark has been chairman in the past and continues to produce award winning programmes for our first team. Also I can report that our end of year accounts showed that we are stable financially. This was achieved through sponsorship and a strong FA Cup run, topped up by fund raising by our members which I thank you for. There was some sad news. Bryan Wood has decided to stand down as Head of Ladies. We have not lost Woody as he will remain on the committee, so we are looking to his previous role in the coming months. We have also taken the decision to change our strategy in terms of paying expenses to first team players, specifically as we are now asking them to travel additional miles. What's key is that we manage this process and ensure our club is not put at risk and all taxes due are paid.

On the project front, our relocation has kicked off in earnest. Our men's first team are ground sharing at Cirencester Town FC. This, as expected, is placing significant pressure on our senior section in terms of match day operations. As they say no pain no gain, and I'm expecting a big gain! We have seen a decrease in spectators in the few games we have held at CTFC, again expected, but a big thank you for those who have made the trip from Wootton Bassett to Cirencester. I remain very positive about our relocation project and expect work to commence in the New Year at the new facility. At that point I will believe we are going to move, once I have firm dates I will communicate this to our coaches along with an update on internal design. We will also see housing development commence at Rylands Way and I think we will all feel a little sad, well, almost all bar the groundsman maybe.

This season our focus will be on the relocation and maintaining our volunteer base around our club. I have spoken about the senior section in terms of groundshare, but we must not forget the fact our youth teams play at grounds all around North Wiltshire. Please stick with us as it will not be long before we relocate. Ok I have been saying this for a while, but it's got to happen "right".

Andy Walduck

Club Directory:

President: Mark Smedley
Chairman: Andy Walduck (07980 730905)
Vice Chairman: Danny Groom (07500 764275)
Secretary: Ian Thomas (07714 718122)
Match Secretary: Paul Curtis (07801 836946)
Treasurer: Dave Topping
Development Officer: Jeff Tidy
Head of Senior Section: Chris Jones (07774 851563)
First Team Manager: Jeff Roberts (07766 226158)
Reserve Team Manager: Simon Paish (07919 483800)
Development Team Managers: Wayne Petrie and Dave Terry (07917 469344)
Head of Youth Section: Pete Yeardley (07778 936868)
Vice Chairman (Youth) & Merchandise: Nigel Deane
Youth Section Secretary: Gill Gascoigne (01793 840075)
Youth Section Database Administrator: Gill Welsman-Clarke
Youth Section Pitch Bookings: Hayley Gillie
Head of Ladies and Girls' Section: Bryan Wood (07847 639406)
Ladies Team Manager: Becky Gammon
Soccer Skills Academy: Nick Bolton (07745 230226)
Press Officer: Stuart Smedley (07985 367772)
Website Editor: Scott Smedley (07849 334072)
Programme Editor: Mark Smedley (07887 634887)
Welfare Officer: Derek Edgington

Life Members: Mick Woolford (1995), Rod Carter (2008), Roger Williamson (2008), Paul Harrison (2012), Pete Yeardley (2012), Ron Stone (2013)

Upcoming Important Dates:

Sat 14th September - start of Saturday Morning Skills Session (Ballards Ash)

Sun 15th September - FA Women's Cup v Cheltenham Civil Service (2pm, Rylands Way)

Sat 21st September - FA Vase v Odd Down (Away, 3pm)

Tue 29th October - Fri 1st November - Soccer Skills Academy Holiday Camp



Senior Section -

It has been a close season full of changes, which I am sure that going to print you are all aware of. But for those that have slept through the summer I have listed the senior section managers for the season 2013-14:

First team: Jeff Roberts and Drew Youngsham

Reserves: Simon Paish and Simon Packer

Development: Dave Terry and Wayne Petrie

I am sure that you will welcome Jeff and Drew to WBTFC, and I am sure that we all wish them the very best for the forthcoming season. Whilst we continue to play at Rylands Way for the reserves and some specific games for the Development team, the major change is that the first team are now playing their home games at Cirencester Town's Corinium Stadium. This is the start of the relocation for the club. It is very important that we continue to support the club in this difficult period over the next few seasons. If the beginning of this season is anything to go by the support has been excellent and I thank you for this. Please continue this support over the winter period!

The reserves did not start their season until September 7th, and I know this has been a frustrating period for the Simons as they are itching to get going. However the pre season has been excellent with some superb performances.

The development side have also started the season well. We have some very good young players being coached by Wayne and Dave in the correct way, which can only help in the club's development over the coming years.

For the first team, we have made some significant signings this year to strengthen the squad and I am sure you will wish all new players the very best. And of course we wish all players that have moved on the same.

As some of you have read Cricklade Town FC have sadly folded. Whilst I am sad that a local team are no longer, I am equally aware that this is due in part that the volunteer base at Cricklade was non-existent and was being run by one person. This is a lesson that we as a club must learn from and ensure that we continue to embrace the work undertaken by our unpaid volunteer team. We thank you for all your hard work.

Let's look forward to the season with high expectations balanced with a bit of realism in what is going to be a challenging season.

Chris Jones

Veterans enjoy Summer League action

Playing in the inaugural Wiltshire FA Veterans Summer League, Wootton Bassett Town finished third after an exciting playoff victory on penalties against Swindon Centurions. After drawing 4-4, Bassett emerged victorious 8-7 on penalties.

Their overall record stood at played four, won two and lost three. Of those three losses, only one was a heavy defeat, that coming in the semi finals against HM Veterans (1-6).

It was an extremely enjoyable experience for those who took part, with manager Rob Mitchell saying: "The tournament was great fun and as you can imagine we all took it pretty seriously!

"The organisation by Tim Hall at the Wilts FA was great. The pitch at Lydiard Park Academy was superb and all the matches were pretty close in the main.

"Paying the aching muscles price is well worth it and we can't wait for the next time."

Youth Section - As the countdown to the new season begins, so at long last will the time clock for our impending and much awaited relocation. Prior to that move the club faces major challenges as we attempt to find both training and playing venues for our many teams. Patience, cooperation and understanding will be key words in the months ahead and I would like to express my thanks in advance to the many volunteers we now have coordinating Youth football in our community.

As a section both the managers and myself are still fielding questions from parents regarding payments/ team selection procedures etc. I will therefore once again remind you of the most commonly raised points.

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 £27,000!

Another £5,000 will be spent on referees, league fees and insurance policies. With a further £10,000 attributed to kit, footballs and 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"/ Why does the manager always play the same players and not rotate?

As a 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/reservations regarding my Childs progress?

In the first instance fully discuss the matter with your Childs 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 within the club.

As a reminder all of our club policies (Welfare, Social Media, Escalation are available on the excellent club website: www.wbtfc.co.uk)

Finally a big thanks to all our parents and players for there continued support of the club. Challenging times both on and off the field lie ahead but I am convinced by all of us working together we can retain our position as one of the biggest football clubs in Wiltshire.

Pete Yeardley



Ladies and Girls' Section -

This will be my last entry for the Touchline newsletter as the section Head for Ladies and Girls.

Having made the decision to step down at the AGM in July. I feel it is only right that I sign off from the role giving the reason for stepping down. For me it was the feeling of disappointment in myself that I have been unable to start a girls side in the younger age group, that would then go on to feed into the Ladies team for the future.

I have been section head for three years and with this in mind I felt it was time to step down in the hope that someone may come forward from inside or outside the club with the fresh drive needed to take on the role.

I will remain involved with club though, both on the Committee and as assistant to Becky Gammon, who has taken over management of the Ladies side this year.

Bryan Wood

WBTFC seeking new head of Ladies & Girls Section

Wootton Bassett Town are currently seeking a new Head of Ladies and Girls Section to join the club's Executive Committee.

After a number of years in the position, current Head of Section Bryan Wood announced at the club's AGM in July that he would be standing down once a replacement had been found.

Key responsibilities for the Head of Section include developing the club's Ladies and Girls football strategy, helping grow Ladies and Girls football within the local community, overseeing operational duties and working with Ladies and Girls Section coaches.

Candidates must possess 4-5 years of coaching experience, a minimum FA Level One coaching certificate and good communication skills. Ideally, they would also hold an FA Level Two coaching qualification.

A more detailed job description is available for download [here](#). An advert has also been placed on the Wiltshire County FA website.

With an established, successful Ladies team who climbed from Division Three to Division One of Gloucestershire County Women's League in their first three seasons, and the club set to move to a brand new, state of the art facility within the next two years, it is an exciting time to join the club.

If you are interested in the position, please contact Chairman Andy Walduck.

Under 12s gain valuable international 'soccer' experience

They may call it a different name, but the Americans can certainly play the beautiful game, as Rainier Soccer Alliance's touring side demonstrated when they beat Wootton Bassett Town's under 12s 2-0 in a friendly on Sunday 28th July.

In a tight, entertaining affair both teams sought to get the ball down and play. Bassett looked the more likely to score in the first half playing on the counter attack, with the visitors maintaining possession for long periods. However, there was nothing to separate them once the opening period came to a close.

The first quarter of an hour following the restart was the brightest for Bassett as they built possession down both sides and were solid through the middle, with several shots going just wide.

However, being more used to the 11v11 format and bigger pitch, RSA took control in the closing stages and went in front after some patient play through the midfield ended with a great finish over the keeper into the far corner of the net.

RSA added to their lead after a defence splitting pass opened up the home defence and the visiting forward, with just the keeper to beat, unselfishly squared for a teammate to tap in.

RSA's style of play certainly stood out with Bassett manager Martin Young commenting: 'It was great for the Bassett lads to have the opportunity to play against a team at this level. RSA were very confident on the ball and extremely well organised.'

'It was fantastic to spend some time with their coaches and parents after the match too. I know email addresses have been exchanged and I am certain we will stay in touch.'

Head of Section Pete Yeardley was delighted with how the afternoon went.

He said: 'I was very impressed with the quality of football from RSA. Their composure and technique were very evident.'

'They were an excellent group to host and it was a great day.'

'From our tours of Holland, we know how great the opportunities to play teams from abroad are both in terms of player development and socially and this game was no exception.'

Following on their visit to Bassett, RSA - who were recently founded following the merger of five clubs all of which are based around 35 miles south of Seattle, Washington - enjoyed an action-packed week on these shores. They had two further friendlies against The New Saints and Dunstable Town, while they also had the opportunity to train at Manchester City's Platt Lane training ground, tour Old Trafford and Wembley and visit the Emirates Stadium to take in Galatasaray v Porto and Arsenal v Napoli in the Emirates Cup. A photo of both teams is below:



Website Photo Gallery

The photo on the right of Joe Mitchell, taken after the member of our under 12s scored a beautiful lob in the Malmesbury summer six-a-side, is a fantastic example of what it means to score in a Bassett shirt.

What we want is a chance to showcase more excellent images like these from all the club's teams.

To that end, last year saw the introduction of a photo gallery on our website and this season we want to see it fill up! Therefore, if you wish to submit photos for inclusion in the gallery please contact **Scott Smedley**.



Club Directory

In order to help improve communication within the club, a directory listing contact details for committee members, managers and coaches is being produced.

This will be downloadable from the website Contact Us section.

Given the impending relocation and the fact teams will be spread out across venues, for each team details on match venue will be listed. Maps and directions for the various grounds will be provided too.

Furthermore it is hoped to provide information regarding when and where each team will be training. In order to complete this, it would be appreciated if managers from all three sections - Senior, Ladies and Youth - can email these details to Press Officer Stuart Smedley.



**BEST OF LUCK TO ALL
OUR TEAMS FOR THE
COMING SEASON!**

Saturday Morning Skills Sessions

The second full year of free Saturday morning sessions for children aged 5-8, which ran from September through July, proved another great success. Led by Development Officer Jeff Tidy and funded through the FA's Football Legacy Fund, the club can be proud that it possesses a fully-fledged community football programme.

Sessions will resume on Saturday 14th September and will run from 10-11am at Ballards Ash. All boys and girls are welcome to attend. Please remember to bring football boots, shin pads and weather appropriate clothing!

On top of giving children the chance to improve their skills, the scheme has also provided the opportunity for young coaches to learn and develop. And those involved have more than taken advantage of this.

Two coaches - Megan Tidy and Stefan Drawmer-Holmes (both Level Two coaches) have taken part in the FA's National Coaching Scholarship programme. As part of this the pair receive membership of the FA's Coaches' Club, access to an experienced and a £100 bursary to be spent on their development as coaches.

Stefan, Megan and Ryan Venner Megan also represented the club on the management team of the Wiltshire FA's Football Futures Programme, while Megan represented the county association at the Football Futures National Camp at St. George's Park for the second consecutive year.

Additionally, this summer saw Lewis Tidy and Josh Bolton complete their Level One badges.

Any youth section players interested in coaching at the sessions should contact Jeff Tidy for more information. The eventual goal is for coaches to gain experience teaching children at the Saturday morning sessions, work towards earning their badges and then help assist in the coaching of our youth teams.

Soccer Skills Academy

The Soccer Skills Academy weekly Monday night sessions are now open to children who will enter reception in the next school year.

Sessions run throughout the year, barring bank holidays, from 5-6pm at the Lime Kiln Sports Centre for boys and girls in reception and year one, while those for children in years two to eight will take place from 6-7pm on the Royal Wootton Bassett Academy astro turf pitch.

Dates for the October half term Holiday Club have also now been set. This will run from Tuesday 29th October to Friday 1st November and is open to boys and girls of all abilities who are in school years reception through to year eight.

A downloadable application form will be available on the club website SSA page shortly, while for more information please contact Nick Bolton or visit the Advanced Sports Coaching website.

