

Touchline

Wootton Bassett Town FC Newsletter Issue No. 15

Chairman's Welcome - As another year comes to an end we move ever closer to our relocation taking place. I have to say, as I become older, so the years pass more quickly too!

Firstly a club update. We set high sponsorship targets this year which have been tough to get near. I know it's tough for all businesses still, although I'm seeing the building trade picking up, and we will keep up the pressure in trying to attract new sponsors. Financially we are stable in both senior and youth sections, even though we have purchased a fair amount of playing kit this year.

We have also made one small change to our structure. Following on from Bryan Wood stepping down as Head of Ladies and Girls section in the summer, our Ladies team now report into the senior section, which in the past has focused just on men's football.

I'm pleased with the development going on in the club, specifically in terms of our Coach's Corner feature on the website. This is an on-line facility allowing all our coaches to look at 3D movies of coaching programmes along with the ability to download coaching session plans. My thanks for this go to Scott Smedley and Jeff Tidy for making this possible.

Our club is a little like an iceberg. On match days the players turn up and play, with little knowledge of the effort that is put in behind the scenes, from booking facilities, arranging referees, managing our finances to player registrations, line marking, kit washing; the list goes on and on and on. Still though our volunteer base continues to grow. Long may that continue, and thank you to you all.

Since the summer edition of Touchline, I can report that work is expected to commence at the new facility in March - this is great news. Our project work has been focused around the detail of the facility, grass pitch and 3G artificial grass pitch specifications along with clubhouse design and details, including, for example, flooring.

Our first team's groundshare has been secured for next season already, so our partnership with Cirencester Town Football Club will continue until 2015, which is when I expect our new facility to open.

We have seen some impacts on the club due to the current groundshare. There is a disconnect between our senior First, Reserve and Development teams as their paths don't cross. We have seen a reduction in spectators and our volunteers have picked up additional travelling costs in terms of fuel and running cost of their transport - let's hope it's worth the pain.

Good luck to all teams for the remainder of the season and let's hope that the weather holds through from January to March.

Finally I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Andy Walduck

Dell come on board as sponsors

Wootton Bassett Town would like to express their thanks to technology firm Dell, who have recently agreed to come on board as a sponsor. Their generosity is greatly appreciated.

As a club we are reliant on sponsors to help ensure we can provide football for our 23 teams and 400 members. All of the valuable money received from sponsors helps cover running costs, buying new kit, training equipment and much more.



The power to do more

A number of exciting sponsorship opportunities, ranging from team sponsorship, match day sponsorship to advertising in our award winning first team matchday programme, are available.

We would very much like to welcome more businesses to support our Community Club, and further information as to how you can support WBTF is available in our sponsorship prospectus.

Club Directory:

President: Mark Smedley
Chairman: Andy Walduck (07980 730905)
Vice Chairman: Danny Groom (07500 764275)

Secretary: Ian Thomas (07714 718122)
Treasurer: Dave Topping

Development Officer: Jeff Tidy
Committee member: Bryan Wood (07847 639406)

Head of Senior Section: Chris Jones (07774 851563)

Senior Section Match Secretary: Paul Curtis (07801 836946)

First Team Manager: Jeff Roberts (07766 226158)

Ladies Team Manager: Becky Gammon (07825 336479)

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
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 (07964 067042)

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



Senior Section -

Firstly may I wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The first half of the season has seen mixed fortunes for our senior teams. Both the Development and Reserves are showing very good positive performances but our first team, despite the efforts from Jeff, are struggling to gain the correct results, although they have picked up recently.

We welcomed the Ladies into the senior section this year, and, whilst I haven't seen a lot of their games, I was very impressed in the game I did see with the technical level and team spirit that Becky Gammon has brought to the team.

Our discipline this season has not been good in the first team and we have set some tough tasks to try and improve this. Whilst I would question some of the refereeing decisions against us, which have been extremely frustrating, we cannot continue to consistently argue with referees. It is costing the team and the club too much money and respect, while also leading to avoidable suspensions.

As I continually state, this is a volunteer club, and without these people we would not be able to function. The assistance of many people to ensure that everything possible is done for the teams means that on match days the players can just concentrate on playing. However this must be a two way street. It saddens me that many volunteers do not feel that this respect is being shown back from the players, with the exception of the Reserves who on the Race Night turned up in full. No Development players and only a couple of core first team players turned up, which was disappointing!!

Our operating costs are in excess of £20,000 per season and fundraising provides an essential part of funding. If we cannot raise more through these activities we will have to review our current budgeting and cut costs.

I would like to thank all who have assisted this year and again wish everyone a Merry Christmas

Chris Jones

Youth Section -

First and foremost, season's greetings to ALL members within our club. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

As I mentioned this time last year, this is typically the most frustrating period in the football calendar, with frozen or waterlogged pitches often leaving teams with weeks without a match. Although everyone's expecting a cold winter, here's hoping our teams are able to keep getting games in and avoid the dreaded fixture pile up come the spring!

It's great to see the number of games all of our teams have been able to fit in so far this season, which – fingers-crossed – will allow them to avoid the stresses of a number of midweek games later in the year too.

Although the primary purpose of the youth section is to see ALL our players develop, it is always pleasing to see sides enjoying success. We have had five teams reach the quarter finals of the North Wilts League Cup, with the under 11 Blues still alive in the Wiltshire County Cup.

All our managers and coaches now have access to the excellent 'Coach's Corner' facility on the website, which went live recently. This includes videos of age specific training drills covering numerous facets of the game. We strongly encourage those with access to utilise this facility as it will help aid their development as coaches. As a club we are proud of the fact that we are always looking to develop the knowledge of those instructing our youth section members, so many thanks to Scott Smedley for creating this invaluable facility.

It's unfortunate to report that we've lost one youth team since the start of the season, with the under 18 Yellow team withdrawing from their league recently. Within that age group it is always difficult to maintain more than one team, with certain players moving up to play senior football on Saturdays and others moving to 'Academy' sides at Cirencester and New College. While we're always looking to run as many teams as possible at all age groups, with the Development team featuring a number of under 18 players, we may come to review in future whether it is feasible to have more than one side at this age group.

There's plenty to look forward to for the rest of the season, and those going to Holland this year will especially be in for a treat as we will be running an exchange. This will take place between the 5th and 9th April. I understand parents can be apprehensive about the prospect of their children staying with host families, but the occasions on which we have previously run an exchange have always been extremely memorable. While over there, the touring party will get to watch the derby between ADO Den Haag and FC Utrecht, tour Sparta Rotterdam's fascinating ground and play two matches against FC 's-Gravenzande and SC Emma. There will also be a 'Mini World Cup' tournament involving mixed Dutch and English teams. 2015 will then see our sister club FC 's-Gravenzande travel to England and stay with families over here.

Once again, have a great Christmas and New Year!

Yours in sport,
Pete Yeardley



Season so far

With the club's relocation kicking into gear, the start of this season was always going to present many challenges. And so it has proven, although it is with great satisfaction that it can be said these have been met rather successfully.

Senior Section

Arguably the most acute tests were (and will continue) to be faced by the senior section during this transition period. The first team, playing home games at Cirencester Town's excellent Corinium Stadium, back in the UHlsport Hellenic League Premier Division and under the stewardship of new manager Jeff Roberts, have endured an especially tumultuous start to their campaign. Nevertheless they have performed reasonably.

After a difficult start which saw two league defeats and a disappointing FA Cup loss, they found their form and went on an eight game run that saw them collect thirteen points. What was even more impressive about that stretch was how six of those points were earned away from home.

The heavy FA Vase defeat at Odd Down curtailed momentum though. And with confidence dented, Bassett lost heavily in the league Challenge Cup, and picked up just one win from their next seven games, a run which included a pair of defeats against lowly Abingdon United. But the last four games, which have seen draws against high-flying Ardley United, Highmoor Ibis and Highworth Town and a win against Binfield, have brought some relief. They allow Bassett to enter the always busy stretch over Christmas and New Year with renewed confidence.

Currently they sit 15th in the table, which, although below expectations, has them positioned for a chance to climb into mid-table.

For the Ladies, the season began in outstanding fashion with an historic first FA Women's Cup victory against Cheltenham Civil Service.

Their league form has been at times patchy with just 3 wins so far. But they remain in touch with the mid-table teams in Gloucestershire County Women's League Division One, and just three points separate Bassett in seventh from fourth place Cheltenham Spa CS. They also enter their winter break on a high following a fine 4-1 win at the aforementioned Cheltenham Spa CS. With the experience acquired from this early portion of the season, Becky Gammon's young team will look to hit the second half of their campaign with renewed vigour.

It's been an up and down season so far for the Reserves too, but a good recent run has them well positioned in fourth in Hellenic League Division Two West.

Simon Paish's side have recorded excellent wins against Oxford City Nomads Development and Wantage Town, who both currently sit in the top three, while the performance which led to a 5-0 triumph against local rivals Beversbrook in October was also noteworthy.

With their last home game scheduled for early February in preparation for the Rylands Way pitch being no longer available, they will face a tough test the rest of the way. However the quality is there for them to achieve a third consecutive top five finish.

After eight straight victories to begin their campaign, the Development team have hit something of a rut with five defeats in their last eight games. That has meant they have fallen behind the pace set by Wiltshire League Division One leaders Melksham Town

Reserves, while Intel FC have also been able to steal a march on them in the race for second place.

Still, for the youngsters joint managers Wayne Petrie and Dave Terry lean heavily upon, the opportunity to play competitive senior football will only aid their progress.

Youth Section

Five of our youth teams begin the New Year two victories away from an appearance at the County Ground. The Under 14 Blue and Yellow, Under 13 Blue and Yellow and Under 11 Blue sides have all reached the quarter final stage of their age groups' respective North Wilts League Knockout Cup competitions, with the latter seeking to defend their cup crown. Last eight matches are currently scheduled to take place on Sunday January 12th.

A week later the U11 Blues, who are challenging for the title in the league, will aim to keep their hopes of silverware alive on a third front as they have also reached the third round of the County Cup.

They are not alone in contending for trophies. The U18 Blues will begin the New Year top of Division Two, while the U13 Blues are just three points off top spot in Division One. Entering 2014, the U14 Blues are also primed for a run at honours in the league as they sit third, a point behind second place Wroughton Youth. Meanwhile, the U11 Yellows, despite currently being fourth, are just four points behind the leaders in Division Three with a game in hand.

Although adding to the honours board is always a satisfying thing to do, player development and, above all, enjoyment are the primary aims of the youth section.

And it can certainly be said that all 18 of our teams have made progress since the start of the season.

Major improvement can be seen in the results of the U14 White and U11 White teams. Both had tough starts to their campaigns, but have recently turned their fortunes around. Much credit is due to the U12 Yellows too, who have fought hard all season and have recently seen their results improve - a win for them will hopefully be around the corner and will be just reward for their efforts.

Youth Section Success Stories

Former youth section members Aaron Oakley (Swindon Town) and Josh Shama (Oxford United) are currently enjoying their first seasons as professionals in the Football League. The following current Bassett players could all be on the way to following in their footsteps, having achieved notable successes so far this season:

- **Nathaniel Bell, Jack Holder and Kyle Bird**, all members of the under 11 Blue team have been selected for the 2013/14 Swindon Primary Schools Football Association Representative Team.

- Under 9 Blue goalkeeper **Louis Scarpino-Cocking** has been on a 10 week trial with Swindon Town. We wish him all the best in securing a place with the Robins' Academy!

We would love to publicise all of our players' notable achievements throughout the season. So if you're a manager, coach or parent, then please contact our Press Officer Stuart Smedley so an article can be published on our website.



Saturday Morning Skills Sessions

The free Saturday morning sessions are continuing to be successful, and a number of the children that started attending them are now playing within our youth section.

Amy Rowlands has joined the club as a volunteer and is helping Club Development Officer Jeff Tidy to run these sessions. She has passed her Level One coaching course recently and it is hoped she will be a big part of the future of the club, especially in the Girls' section.

The club's sessions have also been set up and affiliated to the Wilts FA as a girls-only mini soccer centre on Saturday mornings (also 10am to 11am) at the U7 and U8 age groups. Amy will in time run these centres.

The young coaches learning their craft at the sessions all come from Brinkworth Cats' U16s teams. Any member of our youth section interested in coaching who wishes to gain some experience through helping with on Saturday mornings should contact Jeff .

Soccer Skills Academy



The Soccer Skills Academy will be holding a two day holiday 'Drop and Shop' camp on Monday 23rd and 24th December.

Sessions will run from 9.30am to 2.30pm. Cost will be £30 per child for the two days or £17 per day. Additional children from the same family will cost £25 for the two days or £15 per day.

A downloadable application form is available on the club website SSA page. For more information please contact Nick Bolton or visit the Advanced Sports Coaching website.

Places are also still available at the weekly Monday night sessions. These cost £20 per month. Sessions for children in Reception and Year One run from 5-6pm at the Lime Kiln Sports Centre, while those for school years 2 to 8 are held from 6-7pm on the Royal Wootton Bassett Academy astroturf.

Finally, a half term holiday camp will be held from Tuesday 18th and Friday 21st February. Booking forms will be available on the website closer to the time.



Wootton Bassett Town Football Club

A Charter Standard Community Club

Coach's Corner

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Shooting circuit 1



Video problem? If so, [click here](#) to inform the developer.

[Replay video](#)

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Coach's Corner

Coach's Corner is the new interactive facility available to all the club's managers and coaches.

This forms part of the club's commitment to developing its coaches and allows those with access to take advantage of a database of age-specific training drills, which include demonstration instructional videos (as shown above), PDF files containing instructions, and session planning advice.

Drills included come from the The Future Game - The FA Technical Guide for Young Player Development. 36 videos are available for drills suitable for players aged 8-11, with 29 for players aged 12-16 and a further 29 for those aged 17+.

All our managers and coaches should have received a user name and password to access this section of the website.

If you have not received this information, please contact webmaster Scott Smedley.

Managers and coaches are highly encouraged to make use of this section. Not only is it a great learning tool for them, but also for helping develop the close to 400 playing members at our club.

Website Photo Gallery

We are fortunate this year to have been able to collect some excellent photos from our first team's matches, which are available to see in the website photo gallery.

What we want is a chance to showcase more excellent images from **ALL** the club's teams.

Therefore we want to see the gallery fill up even more!

If you wish to submit photos for inclusion please contact **Scott Smedley**.

WOOTTON BASSETT.

We hear that in consequence of a memorial sent in to the directors of the G.W.R. Company the down market train to Bath and Bristol will in future stop at Wootton Bassett and Dauntsey.

FORMATION OF A FOOTBALL CLUB—Thanks to the energetic efforts of Messrs Clark and Hearn, who convened a meeting for this purpose at the Royal Oak Hotel last week, a club has been started, and play has already commenced in good earnest. A good number have already joined, and considerable support is promised, and there appears every prospect of the club having an enjoyable and, we hope, a successful season. The game will be played upon the rules of the Football Association. Mr Clark is the captain, and Mr Hearn secretary.

A club 131 years in the making

We have recently been able to unearth details regarding the formation of the club 131 years ago. On the left is a cutting from the Monday November 13th 1882 edition of the *Swindon Advertiser* detailing a meeting held in the previous week at the Royal Oak Hotel (now the site of Morrisons).

As a club we will forever be indebted to those who attended, most notably the Messrs Clark and Hearn who are listed in the report. The former became our first captain, while the latter became club secretary.

The club lasted in its original form until 1908 when it folded. However, the opening of the Gerard Buxton Sports Ground was the catalyst which led to WBTFC being re-established in June 1930. And from there we have gone from strength to strength.

For further details on our rich history, please visit the online archive, which now contains fixtures, results and tables covering 89 seasons.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all players, coaches, parents and fans!

