

# Touchline

Wootton Bassett Town FC Newsletter Issue No. 17

## Chairman's Welcome -

I can report a summer of change. Following on from our AGM I can confirm that Chris Jones who has been heading up our senior section has decided to stand down, although he will remain with the club going forward. I would like to thank Chris for all his hard graft over the past years. I can also report that our financial status remains strong as we reported a small profit. With Dave Topping at the helm of our finances I also ways feel we are in save hands, something which will be key for our future.



Our senior playing structure has seen many changes too. We welcome Paul Braithwaite, Chris Green and Ian Dowling to our senior section. Paul is our new first team manager, and brings with him a good club ethos which will help us build a solid senior section. As part of the change, Simon Paish and Simon Packer left the club after many years in both the youth and senior sections. I would like to thank the two Simons for their efforts and commitment to our club over the past years. Their management roles at reserve level have been filled by Dave Terry and Wayne Petrie who move up from the Development team, where Mark Varney has stepped up to be player manager.

Our youth section continues to grow under the watchful eye of Pete Yeardley with the introduction of Paul Gerrish, who has brought over a team from Brinkworth Cats and is now running our U18s. To have someone with Paul's experiences only adds to our club's future.

I'm sure you have seen the housing development on our former ground at Rylands Way. It is a little sad as we have lost over 80 years of history. But, along with the sadness comes the thought of what will be - a great new facility. Ground works have been ongoing with the moving of over 600 tonnes of soil and the removal of stones almost complete. I can report that the new facility development is running to plan and is on target financially, although pressures continue to prevent cost increases. We should see pitch drainage and grass seed being laid shortly followed by the club house frame by December this year. I'm now at the point I need to see a physical building or two!

With the senior section already well into their season and our youth section just commencing their campaigns in earnest, as always I wish you all well for the season and, remember, the referee is always right regardless of our thoughts of that particular challenge or decision made. Please continue to show your respect.

**Andy Walduck**

## Club Directory

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

**Secretary:** Ian Thomas (07714 718122)  
**Treasurer:** Dave Topping (07771 782488)  
**Development Officer:** Jeff Tidy (07768 466760)

**Marketing Manager:** Ben Brown  
**Welfare Officer:** Derek Edgington (07964 067042)

**Senior Section Match Secretary:** Paul Curtis (07801 836946)

**First Team Manager:** Paul Braithwaite  
**Ladies Team Manager:** Becky Gammon (07825 336479)

**Reserve Team Managers:** Wayne Petrie and Dave Terry (07917 469344)

**Development Team Manager:** TBC

**Head of Youth Section:** Pete Yeardley (07778 936868)

**Vice Chairman (Youth) & Merchandise:** Nigel Deane

**Youth Section Secretary:** Hayley Gillie (07920 559081)

**Youth Section Membership Secretary:** Gill Gascoigne (07891 458860)

**Youth Section Coach Mentor:** Nick Warren (07789 888300)

**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)

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

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday 4th October** - FA Vase Second Qualifying round v Abingdon United (Corinium Stadium, 3pm)

**Tuesday 28th - Friday 31st October** - Soccer Skills Academy October Holiday Camp



## Youth Section -

We extend a warm welcome to all players old and new for what promises to be our final season before the long awaited relocation to our new purpose built facility in July 2015.

We have tried to locate all our youth teams into three primary venues for this season.

As before the minis will continue to play at Rylands Way on the cricket outfield, and the U15s and U18s will play at the Rugby Club at Ballards Ash.

This season, the bulk of our teams will be based at the excellent Beversbrook facility at Calne.

All fixtures are always updated on our website so if you fancy some fresh air one weekend, pop along to one of the venues and support one of the teams.

As is normal in football we have had some changes behind the scenes during the summer months.

After nine years at the helm, the hugely popular Gill Gascoigne has stepped down as Youth Section Secretary to concentrate on her career (don't ask!). Gill, along with her husband Erk, gave dedicated commitment and service in this very demanding role and became the "mother" to over 300 players and twenty managers. Gill's calm, measured approach helped to diffuse several challenging issues and I would like to extend thanks from myself and all at the club for her dedication.

I am pleased to inform, however, that Gill has not severed her ties completely and will now become both our Membership Secretary and also head up the Six-a-Side Committee.

Several managers have also decided to hang up their boots and we see the departures of Paul Burke, Malcom Chivers and Neil Timbrell. All three are club stalwarts with many years' service to the club in playing, coaching and managerial roles. We again thank them for their dedication and time served in what, sometimes, can be an emotional and demanding role.

We welcome several new faces into the youth section. Hayley Gillie will take over the Youth Secretary's role and she has already experienced the demands this position brings. I would urge all at the club to give Hayley their full support and backing – this will be a challenging season as we not only make the transition from old to new facilities but also adopt new FA guidelines in junior football.

We also welcome Tony Power (U7s), Shane Saunders (U12 Blues) and Paul Gerrish (U18s) into coaching and managerial roles. All have bought into the club's ethos and coaching philosophy and we look forward to working with them all over the coming years.

I am also pleased to bring on board the popular and vastly experienced Nick Warren. Nick has many years' experience in coach education, and whilst we have yet to fully define his role, he will be a tremendous asset to the youth section.

Finally in wishing all the players a successful and enjoyable season, can I remind the parents the critical role they can play in their child's development and enjoyment of the game.

- Please ensure the atmosphere at the game is supportive and not confrontational. Leave the technical instructions to the coaches – too much contradictory information can confuse players.
- Expect mistakes and do not dwell on poor results.
- Overall the aim is for all of our players is to "play without fear". It is far better for players to fail trying than fail to try!
- Please support all the players and respect both the opponents and officials – let's aim to make Wootton Bassett Town be at the forefront of player development in the county.

Enjoy the season.

Yours in sport,

**Pete Yeardley**

## Sports Association Clubhouse

All football club members and their families are reminded that they are welcome into the Wootton Bassett Sports Association clubhouse at Rylands Way as members.

With cheap drinks, a function room and a family friendly atmosphere, it is a great place to get together with friends. And with live Premier League football on Sky Sports and BT Sport available to watch, there is no excuse not to make use of the clubhouse!

## Coach's Corner

All of our managers and coaches are reminded that they have access to Coach's Corner. This is a fantastic interactive portal which contains videos of age-related training drills, PDF documents containing instructions for these and session planning advice.

These come from '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+.

To make this easier to find, a link to this section of the website has now been added to the 'Development' tab, which will hopefully drive increased traffic towards it.

If you do not currently have access, please contact webmaster Scott Smedley to arrange this.



## Saturday Morning Skills Sessions

As part of its grassroots coaching programme, Wootton Bassett Town are once again hosting FREE skills coaching sessions for 5-12 year olds at Ballards Ash.

Sessions will run on Saturday mornings from 10-11am and will be overseen by Amy Rowlands, along with young Wootton Bassett Town coaches.

Boys and Girls of all abilities are welcome and will need to wear football boots, shin pads and weather appropriate clothing.

The sessions held during last season were yet again a success. During the year, Amy passed her Level One coaching award recently and I see her as a big part of the future for our club, especially in the girls section. We have also been set up and affiliated to the Wilts FA as a girls only mini soccer centre.

Also helping with the sessions was Ryan Dowse, a former youth section player, who used them as a stepping stone towards his Level One course.

Another success story is that Lewis Tidy, who was one of our young coaches, is now part of the Wilts FA Coaching Academy, a new initiative started recently.

Many thanks as well to the Brinkworth Cats players who also helped as coaches.

**Jeff Tidy**

## Sponsorship drive a success

Wootton Bassett Town are pleased to announce that Steele Davis Ltd and What's Right CIC have come on board as sponsors, while both Allen & Foxworthy Ltd and Cats Solutions have continued their long running support for the club.

Steele Davis Ltd is a long established independent building company based in Devizes.

What's Right CIC, meanwhile, is a group of locally selected Trusted Business Partners who have been chosen because they are good, decent, honest, efficient and ethical companies, who also raise money for good causes by introduction.

Allen & Foxworthy Ltd, a scaffolding contractor based in Swindon, first came on board as a sponsor in 2011.

Our association with Cats Solutions has now existed for over a decade. They deliver a broad range of print and associated services, and are the printers of both our award-winning First Team matchday programme and the six-a-side tournament programme.

The club is proud to have the support of these fantastic companies, as well as all other individuals and companies who continue to support the club.

If you or your company are interested in sponsoring the club, please contact Chairman Andy Walduck or Marketing Manager Ben Brown for more information about the various packages available.

All sponsorship – large and small – is greatly appreciated and will be used for a variety of purposes from purchasing kit to training equipment to help meet our running costs.

## Soccer Skills Academy



The Soccer Skills Academy has undergone a revamp over the summer, with the introduction of Footy Tots and Girls-only sessions on Monday nights. Both of these are proving to be very popular with spaces filling up fast.

Sessions on Mondays will now run in the following order:

5-6pm - Tots - Year 1s (Boys and Girls mixed)

6-7pm - Boys Year 2-8

6-7pm - Girls Year 2-10

These will take place at Noremarsch Junior School until 29th September. However, from October 4th the sessions will move to Lime Kiln Leisure Centre (indoors) for Tots sessions and the Royal Wootton Academy astroturf for the Boys and Girls sessions.

The cost of the sessions will be £23.00 per calendar month (£35 for more than one player from same family) which will be payable by standing order. Players should bring football boots/trainers as well as drink, suitable training kit & waterproof jacket.

If you are interested in your child attending The Soccer Skills Academy on a free trial, please contact Nick Bolton to secure a place.

A downloadable registration form is available from the Soccer Skills Academy page.

## October Half Term Holiday Camp

The Soccer Skills Academy will be holding a four day holiday camp from Tuesday 28th - Friday 31st October at Rylands Way.

Sessions will run from 9.30am to 2.30pm on each day. Cost is £60 per child for four days or £17 per day. Additional children from the same family will cost £55 for the four days or £15 per day.

Places are available for girls and boys from reception year through to year eight.

A downloadable application form is available from the Soccer Skills Academy page.

For more information please contact Nick Bolton or visit the Advanced Sports Coaching website.





**Under 13 Blue - North Wilts League Division One Runners-Up**

How they did it: P 16, W 13, D 2, L 1, Pts, 41 .



**Ladies - Wiltshire County FA Women's Cup Runners-Up**

How they did it: QF - beat Highworth Town Ladies 4-0  
SF - beat Marlborough Town Ladies (Walkover)  
Final - lost to Swindon Town Ladies 7-1



SLG Photo Media 2014

**Under 11 Yellow - North Wilts League Division Three Runners-Up**

How they did it: P 22, W 16, D 5, L 1, Pts 53.



**Under 18 Blue - North Wilts League Division Two Champions**

How they did it: P 14, W 13, D 1, L 0, Pts 40. Conceded just twelve league goals!



**Under 14 Blue - North Wilts League Cup Runners-Up**

How they did it: R2 - beat Highworth Town Ladies (Walkover);  
R3 - beat Blunsdon 8-3; QF - beat Shrewton Juniors 2-0; SF - beat Malmesbury Youth 3-2; Final - lost to Stanley Park Yth 1-0

**Congratulations to our teams who achieved honours last season! Best of luck to all our sides for this year!**

