

# Touchline

Wootton Bassett Town FC Newsletter Issue No. 18

## Chairman's Welcome -

Welcome to the 18th edition of Touchline.

I hope you have found the time to drive past the new facility or follow the tweets and photos. If you haven't please take a look at the photo gallery on our website or Facebook - it will give you an indication of progress.

In the main, the project has been kept to plan. Grass seeding was late on the cricket outfield and on the stadium pitch. The stadium pitch has taken fairly well, but the outfields of the cricket not so well. The club house is taking shape, from the road it looks not so big as it sits within the 22 acres, but when you are close up it looks very different.

It's critical that we are able to play senior football there come August next year due to the moving of our senior club status and the fact that the current ground share comes to an end. The Sports Association are working hard to deliver a suitable facility for us, so I have my fingers crossed we don't experience any further delays, and that we have a quick winter which may evoke an early spring. As we move into the new facility we need additional help, specifically around senior match day help and a small number of volunteers to look after the tea hut, which can be used throughout the weekends for youth and senior teams. If you are in a position to help please come forward.

I can also confirm that we will be changing our name, taking on the Royal element of our town; I understand that all member clubs are doing the same. For us, we will have a new badge. I'm not expecting an overnight change of all our kit; we will change over a period of time as kit is refreshed. The website and documentation will be the first to be changed once we relocate.

I have been lucky to have seen some of the youth games this season. I have seen good football being played and good supporting parents. Back when my son was playing in the youth section, I remember one game where he was playing maybe U8 or U9. It was a cup game, and a parent tripped up my son as he ran down the wing, so maybe discipline has improved, although reading Pete's note below it looks like reminders are still required.

As you know we don't have a Head of Senior section right now. I have to say thank you to Danny Groom and Ian Thomas in helping covering the duties.

This season, for the seniors it's been difficult, which was expected with new management and the groundshare in place. Operationally it's been challenging, with the split of the three teams very visible.

The first team is fairly settled but I have concerns with the numbers in both the Reserves and Development teams. This needs some work to bring both teams up to where they should be. I would like to see players strengthened in the Reserves and a much greater link in our Development team with the youth sections. This will be addressed in the remaining months of this season.

Thank you for supporting our club. Please keep an eye on the new facility. Finally, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and please have a great New Year.

**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:** Mark Varney

**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)

## Relocation photos

As work continues apace at the new site, you can keep up to date with progress in the photo album on the club's website and on our Facebook page.

Not long now until we have our new home!



**Youth Section -**

Rather than a lengthy piece for this edition of Touchline, I thought it would be wise to include the words from a poster issued at a rugby club for all parents and spectators at youth matches, which I've adapted for the beautiful game and youth football. Please do consider this when watching our youth sides.

Hope you all have a great Christmas.

Yours in sport,

**Pete Yeardley**

**Please Remember:**

**These are kids.**

**This is a game.**

**The coaches are volunteers.**

**The referees are human.**

**This is not the Premier League**

**It's about development.**

**Race Night Success**

Many thanks to all who attended the club's Race Night on Saturday 29th November, as well as to those who sponsored races.

Overall, £406 was raised - a fantastic sum - while much fun was had by those who packed out the clubhouse at Rylands Way.

**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 drills 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 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.



## Our Volunteers: Amy Rowland

Wootton Bassett Town is ever grateful to the volunteers who make the club what it is. A new, regular feature of Touchline will be a focus on those who contribute so much to the club in their free time. In this edition, we are featuring **Amy Rowland**, who runs the free Saturday Skills Sessions.

### How did you get into football?

I got into football when I was 4 years old - we are a huge football family! We all support Swindon but of course we had our favourites. My mother was a Man City fan, my dad is an Exeter fan and both me and my brother are Newcastle fans (someone has to be!) When I was 7 I played as a striker for Coleview Juniors. As I got older I ended up as a goalkeeper which I loved and I played in this position for many teams including Swindon Town and Chippenham Town Ladies until I had to end my footballing career early due to an injury.

### What's your proudest football achievement?

I have two moments which I consider my proudest footballing achievements. One is when I was in Junior school. I was the only girl on a team with 10 boys (*picture below*). I sometimes even had to tackle my own team so that I could have a shot on goal! When I scored my first goal against a local school I was then treated as one of the boys!

My second moment is when I was 18 I was chosen to represent Wiltshire as a goalkeeper. I was so happy when they picked me as I thought the second choice goalkeeper was much better than me, so I was also shocked - as was my family as I am only 5ft 2inches! .... plus my Grandmother was never keen on me playing!!!!

### What's your role with the club and how did you get involved?

My role at the moment is running the Saturday morning classes with Jeff. I love it so much and wished I did it earlier. I do learn a lot under the guidance of Jeff and he helps me out a lot. I am a Level One coach and next year I am doing my Youth Module. I got involved because due to my injury I am unable to play, but I thought what if I could teach children the same experiences I had as a child and growing up, and I felt I could pass this on to someone else.

### What do you enjoy most about your role?

I enjoy everything about it. I love it when the kids come up with new ideas for a game and I can change it to suit them and what I am trying to teach them. They seem to get a lot out of my expertise. I enjoy playing around and interacting with the children. As long as they are safe, well and having a good time this makes me happy as I know I have done my job to the best ability.

### What are your ambitions within the game?

My ambitions is to pass on the knowledge I have of football and to develop the younger generations into playing the game that I love, giving them the same experiences that I had when I played and the feeling of achieving something whilst learning and growing.

### How do you envisage your role with Bassett developing in the future?

I would love to help bring more children to the free sessions on Saturday mornings because it is fun for all the children no matter what their ages. I would love to be able to build a team and work with them so that we would be able to play games with other teams. I am 100% committed when it comes to my future with Wootton Bassett Town. I will do all that I can to give the children the experiences, the happiness and the skills to go further with their footballing career. And you never know maybe it will give me more confidence to put back on the goalkeeping gloves once again!



## Saturday Morning Skills Sessions

Free skills coaching sessions for 5-12 year olds, a key part of the club's grassroots coaching programme, continue at Ballards Ash. Held on Saturday mornings from 10-11am, these are overseen by Amy Rowland (*pictured above*), an FA Level One qualified coach who is currently working towards her FA Youth Award Module One.

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

The sessions began in September 2012 after the club had its Football Legacy Fund (FLF) application accepted by the FA National Youth Council. The aim of the FLF is to support young people aged 16-24 to deliver football projects.

Since starting, numerous members of the Wootton Bassett Town youth section have gained coaching experience by running the sessions and gone on to complete their initial coaching badges. To help them with this, they have received support from Club Development Officer Jeff Tidy.

With the pending relocation, plans are being made to expand the club's free offering - keep your eyes peeled for further information relating to this on the club website nearer the time we move in!

## Soccer Skills Academy



The Soccer Skills Academy will be holding a three day Street Soccer 'Drop and Shop' Christmas Holiday Camp between Monday 22nd December and Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve).

Sessions will run from 9.30am to 2.30pm on each day at Rylands Way. Cost is £45 per child for the three days or £17 per day. Additional children from the same family are now half price.

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

As all courses are now usually oversubscribed, a first come, first served policy will be in place. Therefore, please book and pay early to avoid disappointment.

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

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



## Sponsorship Focus

Wootton Bassett Town would like to wish a special thanks - and a very Merry Christmas - to all our sponsors, whose kind and valuable support helps the club to meet its running costs.

The support provided by the numerous individuals and companies helps cover the cost of purchasing kit and equipment for both matches and training, as well as assisting in the running of events such as the Holland Tour and Six-a-side Tournament.

The club is extremely proud of its association with its four 'Gold' sponsors: Allen & Foxworthy, Cats Solutions, Steele Davis and What's Right.



**Allen & Foxworthy** - formed in 1998, the senior management of Allen & Foxworthy have in excess of 100 years' experience within the scaffolding industry. As a company their experience ranges from small works and domestic properties to national house building projects, major construction developments with MCG Companies, railway stations to public housing projects, and P.F.I. schools and hospitals. They also have a specialist works division covering palaces, monuments and castles and are preferred suppliers to the National Trust and English Heritage.



**Cats Solutions** - a member of Cats Group, founded in 1992, Cats Solutions delivers a broad range of print and associated services, such as brochures, manuals, newsletters, booklets, posters and signage to name but a few, and print our first team matchday and six-a-side tournament programmes. Operating from 24/7/365 "hubs" located in London and Swindon linked to strategically located "satellite" facilities across the UK, Cats Group's unique business model delivers managed print, fulfillment, scanning, electronic data discovery and document processing/review services to clients.



**Steele Davis** - Steele Davis is an independent building company, with a well established reputation for outstanding service that has spread well beyond their base in Devizes. Their success over the years has been achieved by remaining true to their original 'family values' - putting customers first and striving for outstanding customer service from all their staff. They offer residential and commercial customers many aspects of construction, from new build, alteration and refurbishment through to planned and responsive maintenance.



**What's Right** - What's Right raises money for good causes by donating a proportion of any business generated as a result of membership to the chosen good cause. What's Right does as their name implies. They do what is right and aim to help others to do the same. The symbolism behind the logo is that What's Right is a question all people should ask of themselves and What's Right is also the answer once all options are considered. Thus the question mark, equals sign and scales in their logo constantly act as a reminder of this mission and ethos.

If you are interested in sponsoring Wootton Bassett Town, please contact either our Marketing Manager Ben Brown or Chairman Andy Walduck to find out more about the club and the opportunities available.

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

