

TOUCHLINE

WBTFC Newsletter Volume 7, May 2010

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Welcome: Well here we are at the end of another season that the club can look back on with pride, and I want to thank everyone involved for enabling our club to operate over 20 teams and provide our community with such a strong football participation programme. As evidenced in the reports below from Chris, Bryan, Pete, and Andy, there really have been some step changes this season for the club, notably establishing the Ladies senior team and Community Football, alongside simply running our existing teams and Holland tour. I'm sorry that as club Chairman other time commitments prevent me from getting around too watch as many games across the club as I would like (hence my Lord Lucan nickname), particularly as I feel the ideal is for the Chairman to have a more active presence. We do have vacancies on our club Executive committee, notably that of Vice Chairman, and our AGM is in July so please do contact me if interested and perhaps relieving me of my embarrassment in the long term. Have a great summer – Paul H

Senior teams: "Bassett Going Up" How quick has this season gone! It only seems a month ago we were preparing for pre-season and I am already in discussions about next season. It is however time for reflection and thanks for what has been an excellent season for the senior section. Behind the scenes there has been a massive effort. To Gordon, Dave, Carl and I must not forget Karen and Charlotte. To Andy Tye, Dave Terry and Tracey Smith, to Amy Tye, Michelle Leighton and to Kara Gregory, to Steve Matthews, Roger Williamson, Rod Carter and Nigel Deane, to ALL the Sponsors, Mark, Scott and Stuart Smedley and to the Barmy Army for all their support. **A BIG THANKYOU. Under18s Report:** Probably the youngest ever U18S Floodlit squad to represent WBTFC and expectation at the start of the season was to blood the youngsters and take a long term view that in a couple of seasons they would be able to compete. It is to the Players credit, under the guidance of Danny Groom and Ray Ellis, with two games left they could finish in second place, whatever those results bring they have been a credit to the club and the future looks very bright. **Reserves:** One of the hardest jobs in football is to manage a reserves team, with the 1st team pulling in players, having to blood youngsters in a league of men, to name a few issues having to be dealt with. I asked Simon Paish at the start of the season to concentrate with Simon Packer to start building a foundation that will allow the club to build for the future and Simon, although not all results have gone their way, has without any doubts started to rebuild. In many games this season we have seen the average age of the team barely above 20 with some players not old enough to have a post match drink! This has been a fantastic achievement and again can only enhance the future of this club. **FIRST TEAM :** Wow, where do I begin(At the start of the season we set a 60 point target which in previous years would have given us a chance of being in a position to gain promotion. Dave, Blakey and Tucks were very confident but I was worried that after last season's near miss we could experience a negative backlash. But as ever Dave and his team rebuilt with better players and started out on a fantastic season. The furthest we have got in the FA Vase, the most goals scored in the Hellenic league and the most points gained in the Hellenic league to name a few triumphs! **PROMOTION** in joint 1st just missing out on being Champions by goal difference. Another fantastic achievement in a season which has seen the senior section goes from strength to strength. TO DAVE TURNER, ALAN BLAKE AND TO TUCKS and of course the **players** who have brought credit not just to the club but also to themselves **A BIG THANKYOU.** I must also thank and congratulate the youth section on their season, pleasingly they have played more games at Rylands this season than in any previous years in my opinion WBTFC is in the beginnings of a golden period and with continued efforts from all involved we can look forward to another exciting season.

Chris Jones – Section Head of Senior Football

Youth teams: In a year with officially the worst winter weather in decades we can reflect on a season of mixed fortunes for all our teams. A promising start for our under 8s can be coupled with steady progress and consolidation for the two under 9 teams. The under 10s again performed admirably and now get ready to make the transition into either 9 or 11 a side (depending on the North Wilts Leagues plans). Having faced that hurdle last year our under 11s had a difficult but I am sure an educational season. With the loss of several players Chris will now be strengthening his squad ready for the next campaign. Our success this season has come in the under 13s age group with not only the "a" team finishing as league champions but also the "b" team remaining highly competitive in the top division. Sadly our traditionally strong teams in the under 14s and 15s leagues both suffered as a result of enforced managerial changes made mid season. Both however finished the season strongly and the signs for next season are promising. Derek and the under 16s found their first season in the top flight very difficult but hopefully with the impending amalgamation with some of current under 18s we are confident of better fortunes ahead. Talking of the under 18s it still amazes me how we managed to run 4 teams (including the floodlit) at this age group. Great credit to those managers and players for showing tremendous commitment throughout the season. Apart from all players, managers, coaches I would like to extend a big **thank you** to all those parents for supporting and encouraging both the teams and club. We have adopted the much vaunted FAs respect campaign with great success and reports from the North Wilts league are very positive. The hard work now starts, not only with the club awards and presentation days but also with the impending six a side tournament. To ensure this tournaments continued success we need as many volunteers as possible. If you can commit a few hours of your time over the weekend (5th and 6th June) please contact your manager ASAP. Your help would be gratefully received. Have a sun filled and relaxing summer.

Pete Yeardley –Section Head of Youth Football



Ladies & Girls: I would like to welcome Paul Cooper on board at Wootton Bassett Town, Paul has already given me some good ideas after what was a very disappointing turn out for the Girls "taster" football sessions at Ballards Ash Saturday morning's during march, with only 4 girls taking up the free session's. I will now look to work closer with Paul over the next few months and still hope to start another girl's team in the future. On the girls side currently running at the club the U13 side have slipped to 5th in their division. But on a pleasing note Terry has increased the numbers at training from 8 up to 16, which will be a challenge to manage if all are able to play every game. My hope is Terry will continue to give his time and effort and take the team onto 11 a-side football. The U16 side have sat top of their league for a long time, now they have been over taken by Trowbridge who have 1 game still to play, I would also like to thank Mark Smyth for all his time and effort in running the side. He has decided to step down as manager after the summer tournaments and wish Mark all the best in the future. The Wilts league will not be running an U17 league next season, so the older girls will be asked to step up and join the ladies side. I am happy that Geff Tidy has agreed to run next year's U16 girls if we can get enough players so spread the word please. The ladies side have had a good season in the Gloucestershire county division 3 having now secured second spot. With most of the current team playing football from U10 it has been nice to see them progress into ladies football and hold their own.

Bryan Wood "Woody" – Section Head of Ladies & Girls

Holland Tour: This year's tour was one of the best we have run. The exchange process worked well as our players stayed with the Dutch player's parents. This forced individual development not just in football, through playing the Dutch, but personal development as well. The football results did not represent the effort put in by the teams, which was a shame, the feedback from all the hosting families and players has been fantastic, and the behaviour of all the children was superb, well done to all.



Holland Tour 2010

May's Joke: The Football Association was considering a scheme for simplifying club badges and emblems so that they reflected the clubs' names. A committee was set up to receive suggestions and, after a few weeks, the chairman called a meeting. 'Gentlemen,' he said, 'our request for new club badge designs has produced a very satisfactory response. Most of the suggestions are perfectly straightforward and logical - an ox for Oxford United, a sun for Sunderland, a heart for Heart of Midlothian, a windmill and a brick wall for Millwall. However, I'm afraid we must definitely draw the line at the proposed design received from Arsenal!'

Recruitment: We are looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Commercial Manager who will take responsibility for fund raising within the club. If you have the skills and some free time please drop an email to Andy Walduck at cdo@wbafc.co.uk. "We need your help"

Club development: I would suggest we can now truly declare we are a Community club, I can report that WBATFC through, Community Football, has successfully delivered 24 football training sessions covering ages 3&4, 5&6 and 7-11 we have seen a total of 287 participants pass through the sessions. These sessions were run within three local schools, Broad Town, Noremarsch and Wootton Bassett Secondary. The sessions have been funded through the Wiltshire Council School Sports Partnership (SSP) and the Wiltshire County FA (WCFA) School Club Link, and our thanks go to them for that. Our thanks particularly go to Matt and Paul for delivering the sessions, and for the great work in firmly establishing our Community Football programme. Following review meetings within the club, with WCFA, and with the Community Football team, our growth objectives has been set for 2010-11 as follows: 1) Build an U13 boys team for the 2010/11 season. 2) Advertise and fill the vacancy for a commercial manager. 3) Build an U8 team feed from Community Football. 4) Create a managers booklet. 5) Create a Community Football Web page. 6) Organise / attend the Holland Tour.

Andy Walduck – Club Development Officer

Sponsor Focus: WBATFC have held a strong relationship with Cats Solutions Ltd for many years. Cats sponsor and produce our 6 aside and Holland tour programmes, and most importantly our first team award winning programme for which we are extremely grateful. So please give Cats Solutions a call for all your printing needs, and support them just as they do our club. "Cats Solutions provide a range of print related services from print on demand, to fully automated bespoke solutions, either in one of our production facilities or managed on your own site. We operate 24hrs a day, 7 days a week, and 364 days a year, to ensure that your jobs are always on time. Cats Solutions have offices in London, Glasgow, Truro and our central HQ in Swindon offering 24/7 national coverage."

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What's On?

- 9th & 16th May Youth presentations
- 21st May Seniors presentations,
- 5th/6th June – 6 aside Tournament

COMMUNITY FOOTBALL "Monday night"

5pm – 6pm: Reception & Year 1 – Lime Kiln Sports Hall.
6pm - 7pm: Years 2 – Year 4 - Lime Kiln Sports Hall.
Years 5 -Year 7 – W.B. School Astro turf (Please call Matt to book your space before you look to attend (07859 794621)

