



Terras Times

The newsletter of Weymouth FC Supporters Association.

July 2022

EDITORIAL - James Warrener

Hello everyone and welcome to season 2022/2023.

I don't know about you but I can't believe how quickly August starts to roll round. I am stuck in about 1995 still (as my fashion sense will confirm)!

After a lot of angst at the start of pre-season the Managerial team were true to their word and waited to get the right players in based on what they wanted to do and how they want to play.

Was it nervy as a fan watching other teams announce players left, right and centre forward? 100%, but let the proof be in the pudding next May (although let's not wish another 10 months of our lives away eh?)

Welcome to all of the new players, especially Claudio Ofusu, a fellow Peterborian who knows my kids PE teachers from playing locally up here. No pressure mate but Market Deeping is watching you...

The fixtures coming out felt different to last season for me. The thought of big trips to Notts County and Grimsby were replaced with old foes like Slough Town and Havant & Waterlooville.

It's really odd but I do feel more excited this season as opposed to the dread I felt at the scale of some of the matches we faced in 2021/2022 and that is no reflection on Brian or David.

Where will we finish this season is a difficult prediction to make. Our previous experiences in this division have never seen us last more than 1 season before going either up or down. So there isn't much to go on.

Maybe in that instance I would settle for a strong season with less turnover of staff on and off the park and let's see where we end up as a result.

Bring it on!

James



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Chairman's Chatter

Hello everyone and welcome to our latest newsletter. Quite a lot has happened during the past month so I will do my best to catch you all up! Firstly, the news was recently made public the Supporters Club representative on WFC Board of Directors has been made a full Director with full voting rights. This is a really positive step in cementing the working relationship the Football Club has with its fanbase, the lifeblood of any club. We must all thank Ian White and the WFC Board of Directors for making this happen. It must be stated, during chairman Ian White's tenure, I have been invited to every board meeting and I have attended all but a couple of them, only missing out when away on holiday. We have been well integrated for some time and this now cements that position.

Off the pitch there has been much activity in player recruitment, after, what was for some, a slow start! The player churn has been like that when Mark Molesley took the reigns, so personally, I have not been in the least bit concerned, it is the way of football and that is not likely to change! I have only been able to attend the Portland friendly and it was great to see such a wonderful turn out to support our near neighbours. It was a good workout in hot conditions and these games are very much about the game time and building that match fitness. The average age of the Terras team is coming down quite a bit!

Hopefully the dust has now settled on our relegation from the National League. I would like to take stock of where we are and where we see ourselves going as there have been some debate across social media about the running of the club. I would really be interested to know where you all sit with this question and your thoughts on how we move forward? Having done quite a bit of maintenance work down the stadium (see page 4 photo special), the first thing to point out is that during the closed season, other than season ticket sales, the football club does not generate any income! If there are not games taking place, we have no money coming in! But there are still costs we incur on a daily basis. We have a fantastic band of volunteers who are doing fantastic work getting the ground ready for the new season and it is all very commendable, and we would be lost without their support.

But what level of football do fans feel we are currently able to sustain long term, living within our means as we are currently configured? I think it is the Southern League Premier, with the occasional foray into the National League South if we get a bit of luck!



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Now let me be clear, for the record, at the last AGM I stated my desire to see the Terras ply their trade in the Football League! A town the size of Weymouth with the thousands of football fans that live here has the potential to sustain it if we can find a way of generating the finances that will not mortgage the future of the club for generations to come! What our time in the National League has taught us, is we are miles away from being able to sustain that level, never mind the Football League! Teams at the top had playing budgets in the millions, that is the reality of what we were up against.

There are things we can do and there are options to explore, but before we do that, we need to get over the shock of our past experiences and let what we learnt guide us as we move forward, because at the moment some want to allow it to define us, which is akin to us being afraid of our own shadow! That is only going to hold us back!

Being able to sell more pints on a match day is not going to finance it, although it all helps to some extent of course! Let us know your thoughts at enquiries@wfcsa.co.uk

The Dorset Fan Festival is fast approaching! Please do come along and support this amazing initiative that is intended to bring Dorset's football fans together to celebrate the beautiful game. There is lots going on during the day, youth football tournament, entertainment, bars and of course the small matter of the Weymouth v Dorchester friendly, our final game before the season opener. The date for your diary for you is Saturday 30th July, with events starting from 10pm. Entry to all activities, with the exception of the main event, is free, so come along and check it out and help raise the profile of non-league football in Dorset!

I would like to give a shout out and massive thank you to our wonderful band of volunteers who are doing splendid work getting the Bob Lucas Stadium ready for the new season. If I miss you off, apologies but it is not on purpose!

Pete and Ricky painting and sprucing the place up! John and Iain for tidying and weeding, it was hot down there! Claire who has started cleaning the seats, two rows done, only another 42 to go! Joe has already done a marvellous job marking out the car park with more work planned in the school holidays.



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The jobs and tasks are never ending so if you have played your part in any way, thank you very much indeed, it is very much appreciated.

Before I sign off, just a heads up that bingo returns to the Bob Lucas Stadium! Venue is the Wessex Lounge, the date, Friday 5th August 2022! So get your dabbers at the ready!

Thanks for reading. Until next time, keep safe, stay well and look out for those around you.

Pete Nash
Chairman

Membership update

Many Congratulations to the two winners of a season ticket each in our annual draw for members of the Supporters Association;

Lewis Humphreys and Barry Holmes

Membership is holding steady with currently 244 members.

With the new season ahead please check whether your renewal is due and encourage friends and family to join. It's still only £5 a season, £10 for a family or £20 for 5 year deal. You can join or renew via the Online Club Shop, at the ground on match days or e-mail me at membership@wfcса.co.uk

Ken Willis

Support WFC and WFCSA by playing the Claret and Blue lottery this coming season.

More details here -

<https://www.wfcса.co.uk/>



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Summer 2022 - ground improvement picture special - THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS !!

