



# The Buzz

Harborough Town Football Club newsletter  
December 2015

## Chairman's Chatter

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the club newsletter.

To start this month the Trustees have appointed two new members to the Board of Trustees, Colin Marrant who has recently retired and has many years of business experience and knowledge which will be of great benefit to the club, plus Colin has great experience of running a youth football club having been Chairman of a club for many years. Colin is heavily involved with the Walking Football at the club.

I would also like to welcome Ivor McTighe to the Board of Trustees, Ivor has three boys at the club and is heavily involved in the junior section and is very committed to developing the club. Ivor is a Manager for Lloyds Bank and will bring many additional skills to the Board.

One of the most significant challenges for the club is recruiting new volunteers so I am particularly grateful to Colin and Ivor for stepping forward.

I sometimes wonder how the members think the club runs, and how our amazing facility is managed and I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the club is run totally by volunteers, a very small but dedicated group of people who give their time freely, and in some cases that is well over thirty hours a week to provide what is widely regarded as one of the finest sports clubs in the County.

If I have one wish for Christmas it would be that everyone connected to the club actively supports the club and its social events as well as assisting the people who run the club many of whom have no other connection with the club other than trying to put something back into the local community for the benefit of others.

The club is desperately short of volunteers, and this situation has now become far more serious as the Junior Section Secretary, Sue Fraser has informed the Trustees of her decision to stand down due to health reasons, Sue has agreed to remain a Trustee.

## Events calendar

### Xmas Party Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec

Kids Christmas Party  
Sunday 20th December  
3pm - 6pm with a special appearance from Father Christmas. Tickets £10.00 for a family or £3.00 per single ticket. Tickets available from Jo Perry 07772627196. The party will be followed by a Coaches v Vets game KO 6pm so why not stick around and see if your coach practices what he preaches!!! (The bar will be open)

### Club Xmas Raffle

The Club are holding a Xmas raffle with a top prize of £1000.00 plus many more prizes to be drawn on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are still available from the Club.

Sue has done a truly outstanding job and committed an incredible number of hours freely to help rebuild the club over the last two years.

Sue is keen to stand down as soon as possible but has agreed to stay on until the end of January to allow the Trustees to find a replacement.

So if you know of someone who would like to undertake the secretariat duties please sign post them to me or Maz.

I am sure that everyone would like express their thanks and gratitude to Sue and wish her a speedy return to full health.

Fortunately the club is very privileged to have a fantastic group of coaches, administrators and volunteers all of whom are working towards ensuring that Market Harborough has a successful and sustainable football club on and off the pitch. However I know that both junior and senior football sections would welcome help on Saturdays and Sunday's to assist in the operational running of the club, so if you have hour or two spare on a Saturday or Sunday please let Pete or Andy know for the seniors and Maz for the juniors.

For a club of this size and complexity to be run by volunteers is quite remarkable, when consideration is given to the volume of work that is undertaken, and the need to grow the commercial use of the facility in order to keep the cost of playing football to a minimum. The time may be coming when it will not be possible for this volume of work to be undertaken by volunteers and alternative solutions will have to be considered.

Congratulations to all of our teams who are continuing to progress in county cups, (special mention for the Veterans who have reached the County Cup Semi Final) and their respective leagues. The first team are sitting at their highest position ever and are at home to Oadby Town on Boxing Day 3pm kick off, so please try and get down to support the boys the bars and catering will be fully open.

It just leaves me to thank all of our Managers, Coaches, Trustees, Senior Section Directors, Club Administrators, Social Committee members, Scott, Elaine, Sean, Gary, Kez, Ivan, Joseph, Selena and everyone else who gives their time to the club for the work they have undertaken this year on behalf of the members, and to wish everyone connected to Harborough Town a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

As always if anyone has any specific questions or needs information please email me at [Laurence.jones@harbouroughtownfc.org](mailto:Laurence.jones@harbouroughtownfc.org).

Enjoy your football

Laurence C Jones  
Chairman  
Harborough Town Community Trust  
Tel 07739 592517

[www.harbouroughtownfc.org](http://www.harbouroughtownfc.org)

## **Harborough Town FC Seniors**

The past few weeks have seen the weather change and with that the postponement of football matches! The First team have been progressing quite nicely over the past couple of months with some excellent performances that saw them go on a 6 game unbeaten run to take them to a top ten position in the UCL Premier League.

A couple of notable wins against Deeping Rangers and Sleaford stand out with great all round defensive and attacking play seeing clean sheets in both and some great goals also! Both Deeping and Sleaford sat comfortably in the top 8 at the time of us beating them, so well done to the lads.

## We want you!

The Club is looking for parents who would like to be part of an informal group of Club fundraisers

Are you a parent who has some spare time, creativity and enjoys fundraising.

If you are or you've an idea you're just the person we'd love to meet please email Jo Perry  
mrsjopezza@hotmail.co.uk

## Monthly Club Draw

Want the chance to win money every month from Jan to Dec, and raise money for the Club? Enter our monthly draw for £24.00 a year; we will enter your name into 12 monthly draws and give £12.00 to the Club. For more details and an entry form see our website or contact [Gary Wainwright](#).

This years winners were...

Sue Konteh, Carole Dougan, Paul Twentymen, Deborah Hill, Alex Matthews, Gary Wainwright, Bob Finch, Pauline Winston, Gordon Robinson, John Heron, Chris Wainwright & Jon Henley. Congratulations and thanks to you all.

## Want to share your successes?

Has your team had a run of good luck? Want to share it with the rest of HTFC?

Send us your story and photos and we'll include them in a future issue of **The Buzz**.

The First team are still giving youth every opportunity, with the average age of the squad around 20 years old. We have welcomed back to the squad in November Alex MacMillan who has been sidelined all season with a groin injury, he has brought some control and measure of play to the midfield and alongside the likes of Joe Baldwin and Jack Burrows the strength in depth of the squad is great to see.

Chris Church, Joint Manager of the first team has been poorly over the past 4 or 5 weeks and has been unable to assist Nick Pollard at the helm. This has left Nick short in terms of Match day personnel on the side line so he has brought in Stu Spencer (ex Blaby & Whetstone coach) to assist and help him whilst Chris is unavailable. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Senior Team, the players, coaching staff and the committee to wish Chris a speedy recovery and we look forward to seeing him back in the dugout, in the New Year!!

The Reserves have had very mixed fortunes in the past few weeks. A number of cancellations and Huntingdon withdrawing from the league has actually seen them drop down from Second spot at the end of October to 5<sup>th</sup> place in the league, although they do have games in hand over the teams above them so every opportunity they will rise up the table again. Reserve team Manager, Tony Sansome has been introducing player's from the U18's midweek league who have acquitted themselves very well in the senior game and do not look out of place at all. This is great to see and something that as a club we must encourage more of, so well done Tony and the players themselves!

As we just mentioned the U18's midweek team it would be very neglectful of me to not congratulate Ben Ward and his squad on reaching yet another Final!! For those that are not aware, I think I am right in saying that this will be their 7<sup>th</sup> final in 6 years. Huge congratulations from all in the seniors to Ben and his squad. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come and support the lads in the Cup Final to be played against Oadby at Holmes park (County FA headquarters) on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, kick off 7.30pm. I am sure we will be looking at putting a coach on for interested parties and we will advise more on this in our next newsletter towards the end of January 2016.

All that leaves me to do is wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous 2016! We look forward to seeing you at a match soon!

Yours Sincerely,  
Peter Dougan - Senior Football Chairman.

## **Under 15's Alternative take on the 12 days of Christmas**

It isn't very often that a football team gets away with fielding 12, yes 12 players at the same time!! Well, HTFC under 15's pictured below managed to get 'away' with this at a recent league match at Barwell.

Upon arrival it transpired that hosts, Barwell were short of players. Harborough coaches, Paul Bolger and Phil Ng showed true sportsmanship, and offered to help out. Joe Barthorpe, Harborough's tricky winger played for the hosts in the first half and midfielder Ben Maclean starred for Barwell in the second period. In fact Ben had a great game, tormenting his 'ex' team mates and even scored.

However, Harborough's sporting 'spirit' didn't last as they ran out 7-3 winners. Well done to all concerned in what was a great show of sporting fair play.





## **On the Spot!**

Each month we'll put someone on the spot with deep, meaningful questions. This month it's the turn of ~~Miss July~~ sorry volunteer Susie Munton pictured below.



### **What is your involvement at HTFC?**

Volunteer Fundraiser & Probably the 'Loudest' HTFC Supporter (No probably about it)

### **Who's your favourite team?**

Do you mean Leicester City FC or HT Vets?

### **Favourite Player?**

David Beckham & Scott Munton – (or vice versa!)

### **What's your most memorable footballing moment?**

A crowd of us watching the World Cup in 2002 in The Talbot Bar, (for those not familiar with this pub it was a spit and sawdust establishment!) MH, when James Longley stripped off and ran around the pub naked!!

### **Describe the way you like football to be played**

Like to see Players, a ball, 2 goals & loads of action!

### **Describe the actual way you or your team play in 10 words or less**

The Bees Knees Love to have team talks and plan how we can raise funds & WIN the people of HT over! ☺

**What's the best thing about HTFC?**

The Latte's & The Cheesy Chips – Oh and the Pitches!!

**What's the worst thing about HTFC?**

I love the idea of bringing everyone together for fundraising & fun events and all the kids LOVE it - but still some negativity around. We want to make it the BEST Club in the World, a Great place for everyone, and a safe place for the kids of Harborough to go to – to keep fit and have FUN together

**Best and worst players in my team?**

My Team??? You mean the "Bees Knees" Fundraising team? – I LOVE Jo P as she loves drinking cocktails with me – OOOOP's (Plus she's very well organised), I LOVE Elaine as she loves partying and is also extremely well organised!! I LOVE Sharon, Vicky & Alison as they are GREAT girls and get stuck in! Obvs I LOVE Maz who puts her heart and soul into everything she does. I LOVE Martin as he is SO GREAT at printing and dealing with any complaints!! ☺ As for Gary Wainwright - well he turns up to meetings when he feels like it, but LOVES a good Quiz!

**Describe yourself in 10 words or less:**

Fun, Cheeky, Excitable, Honest, Hard-Working, Full On, Amazing, Considerate, Shy, Comical !!

**Walking Footballers hit the road**

**Si Wellard lashes one home for the Hornets in their recent clash v Doncaster**

## Harborough Hornets Walking Football Team

Walking Football is a relatively new but fast growing team sport. Based on the rules of 5 a-side football, it is played by those now too old to play regular football and also encompasses those younger players that may be recovering from injury.

The team operates fully within the Harborough Town organisation and was formed in February 2015. The Hornets was chosen as a name because we needed a separate name with a bit of humour, almost mandatory in walking football it seems. Our parent clubs are known as The Bees, although technically a Hornet is an oversized wasp. Personally I love this definition from Wikipedia: European Hornet..... This species will sting in response to being stepped on or grabbed but generally avoids conflict.

We train weekly at 6.00pm on the 3G pitch at the club with Matt Wright, qualified coach at the club, taking each session. The session lasts an hour and comprises warm up and stretching exercises, ball work and concluding with a kick-about.

Although for many, being able to play football again rekindles the flame and the passion, you do not have to have played the game to participate. There can be no better way of keeping fit than by participating in an activity like this and it is a major contribution to the Health and Wellbeing of those attending.

The group now consists of about 10 regulars and a few casual attendees. We recognise that people have other commitments such as work, family, holidays etc so there is absolutely no pressure to attend each week: once the bug is caught though, then most strive their hardest to be there. We are fully inclusive so all ages, sex and abilities are welcome.

Our aim is to have two groups to cater for the 50+ and the 60+ and our key objective is to achieve this over the next 6 months. Although we have started to play friendlies against local teams, there is absolutely no obligation to play in these and some choose not to.

We are the first team to be entered in a National Competition in 2016 and are to be the featured Club of the year on the Walking Football United Website. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December we visited Doncaster Rovers to play the Retro Rovers (great name) and played them on one of their 3G academy pitches, winning 3-1: we lost 6-5 however on a penalty shoot-out. We were scheduled to play walking football at Half Time, I believe the first ever occurrence at a Football League game, however torrential rain prevented this happening. We are to be invited back in the New Year to undertake the demonstration of Walking Football I understand. Two pages of The Donny programme against Crewe Alexandra were dedicated to Walking Football and included a message from our Chairman, Laurence Jones.

To promote ourselves we have been on HFM and, by the time you read this, we should have had a write up in the Harborough Mail, and an interview on BBC Radio Leicester non-league show (22<sup>nd</sup> December). In addition we are now listed on BBC Get Inspired  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo/activity/walking-football-34/occurrence/681552>

So if you or you know someone who is keen on keeping fit whilst having fun, please get in touch with Col Murrant at [colin.murrant@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.murrant@talktalk.net) or call on 07810 054 226.







## **Matt Carpenter shows that age & physique are no barriers to the Hornets**

### **Christmas Raffle**

Want the chance to win £1000.00? Well here's your chance the Club are now selling tickets for our Great Christmas Raffle which has a top prize of £1000.00. Tickets are £1.00 and the draw will take place at the Christmas Party on the 20<sup>th</sup> December, tickets are still available and can be purchased from the Club, Jo Perry, Maz Hayton or Martin Vials.

All funds raised will go directly back into the club, so all the club will benefit from the raffle. The draw will take place at the Christmas Party (ask your social committee rep for details) on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

### **Social Media**

#### **WEBSITE NEWS**

- The proposed changeover to a new club website has been postponed! An in-club comparison review showed that our current site has more capability with functions such as document storage and ease of use for several other admin functions, and after a trustee meeting held in November it was decided to stay with the Pitchero site for the time being. We will keep an eye on any new developments the NPC website may make and will review the issue again at the end of the season.



## Feedback welcome!

What was your favourite feature in this newsletter?  
What would you like to see in future editions?

Do you have a preference on frequency?

Please send us your feedback; the only way we can make things better is if you tell us what you think!

**That's all for this month, we'll be back soon. Have a great month!**

- Pitchero have now developed apps that can be downloaded onto both iPhone and Android mobile phones. With the Club App members can view the latest club news, fixtures and results, match reports and videos. With the Pitchero Team Manager App coaches can now manage player selections, team fixtures, and capture live match statistics on the move. Visit your phone's app store and give it a go!

- User guides - Pitchero don't seem to have actually compiled a specific user guide that will assist team admins just yet. I have started a simple document that may help and will upload it on to the website documents page when done. For those team admins out there let me know if there are any specific points you want clarifying or think may be useful for others as well and I'll add these in.

- Team sponsors - are your sponsor details up to date? Take a look on the team pages of the website and see if sponsor names / web links / logos are correct and in order - if not then please drop me an email so that we can ensure the right people and companies are getting the correct exposure on the website. Thanks to the U12 '94's and all of the U7's (all of 'em!) for getting in touch and prompting this housekeeping matter!

- General use of the website - what do you the members think? Do you use the site / have you used it / what would you like to see more of or done different - no questionnaires or corny competitions intended to fill your mails spam folder but any ideas or suggestions that will encourage more use of the site are welcome so please let me know.

- Contact me Sean Marshall on either [seanos@ntlworld.com](mailto:seanos@ntlworld.com) or mobile 07851 110430 - I look forward to hearing from you :o)

Thanks  
Sean

## Housekeeping

Please be advised that the 3G will be closed for 2 weeks over the holiday period, from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, reopening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

The only exception to this will be in the event it is needed for any League fixtures during that time.

## Important HTFC contact details

Chairman and Trustee: Laurence Jones 07739 592517

Senior Section Chair: Pete Dougan 07834 706053

Youth Section Chair: Marion Hayton 07785 614414

General Secretary & Trustee: Sue Fraser 07538 550519

Club Welfare Officer: Elaine Pepler 07710 128220



### LIVE @ THE HIVE

#### **Busy Bees required for a lively Hive!**

We'd be interested in hearing from anybody who might be interested in volunteering & helping us launch this, we'll need assistance with marketing, box office, front of house & sound and lighting, if you'd like to be part of the team looking after this can you please contact myself -

[john.lynch@harboughtownfc.org](mailto:john.lynch@harboughtownfc.org) or

Joseph & Selena at [catering@harboughtownfc.org](mailto:catering@harboughtownfc.org)

Looking forward to seeing you at event in the not too distant future.

John

