



THE BUZZ

Harboro Town is run on an entirely voluntary basis and there is always a need for a fresh influx of helpers and ideas. The future success of the **club** depends on its members as we strive to become one of the best clubs in the country. If you want to get involved and can spare some time please contact Andy Winston 078460 44090 or Sue Fraser @the Club. No offers of help will be turned down no matter how big or small.

Forthcoming Club Socials

Fri 28th Nov Race Night

Come and enjoy a night at the races £5.00 entry first race 7.30pm (Doors open at 7pm)

Sun 21st Dec Kids Christmas party

See newsletter for further details

Sat 13th Dec Quiz Night in the members bar £5.00 per person max 6 per team. Start 7.00pm

Why not come along and join in the fun?

Back to the future with the missing link

This season sees the player pathway improved with the reintroduction of the U18's midweek team this team is seen as a vital and an important link between youth football and the senior team. The team in a short space of time this season has already reaped rewards with Sam Edwards, Sam Ashton, Jamie Nunn & Joe Baldwin all appearing in either the 1st team or Reserves. Hopefully over time this team will continue to flourish and become a conveyor belt of talent for the seniors and as someone once said "you'll win nothing with kids" well if it's good enough for Utd its good enough for HTFC.

The team is under the stewardship of Simon Wellard and he writes...

When I took over three weeks ago we only had ten players left. I have been busier than Harry Redknapp in my November transfer window and have signed 8 more. We were light upfront so we welcome to the club Corey Jones from Kibworth and Sam Ashton who returns from Oadby Town to bring some much needed goals. We have brought in a second string goalkeeper, Tom Drysdale from Medbourne to give us cover for Matt Allen. In defence we have brought in Callum Scott, Sam Drysdale and Harry Moulson also formerly Medbourne players and Jamie Mead from our own 16's. In midfield we welcome Sam Williams from Houghton.

We are going through a big transition but the new players are all quality and I expect to show improved results very soon. The balance is right now, with cover across the board. I want this team to play good passing football and to produce some future first team players. I eat, sleep, and love my football and it's great to be working with such a talented bunch of nice lads. The team train on Mondays 7.30pm 'til 9pm and anyone interested in becoming part of the team can contact Simon as below

Contact details are 07754741197 or premiersoccer@sky.com



Late Night Christmas Shopping - HTFC is holding a stall at The Square on Friday 5th December. We are going to be next to HFM Radio. If you intend to be visiting the shops then why don't you come along and say hello. Young players can have a go at the lucky dip!
If you'd like to help on the stall please contact Maz -Marion.hayton@yahoo.co.uk

Race night Friday November 28th

Sorry to keep banging the drum about the Race Night however with the event looming up on the inside as quick as the winner of the first race
i thought I'd ask / beg again for your support. What's in it for me and my team I hear you ask the answer to this is for your £5.00 (kids free) you get entry in to a fun night which you could use as a social gathering for your team which gives you the chance to bond with your fellow members, it gives you a chance to meet other members of the Club and maybe forge links with other teams. All this while partaking in the occasional beverage, enjoying the racing and maybe winning a few quid at the races. Oh yes I almost forgot the money raised goes into the Junior bank account so money raised will ultimately benefit you and your players. So again I ask / beg you please support this event the more people that come along the more enjoyable it will be.

There is also the option of sponsoring a race or to own a horse again I hear you ask what's in it for you well see below for the "enhanced package"

To sponsor a race (8 in all) is £30.00 and for this you get 1 free entry ticket, your company logo on the race card and also shown on the screen during the race

There are 64 race horses available to buy for £2.50 for this you get to name the horse and if its first past the post you win a prize.

Please pass this on to your contacts and I hope to see you all at what could be a great night. Tickets are available from Elaine Pepler, Gary Wainwright, The Club Office and Cheryl



Kids Christmas Party



The Club is holding a Christmas Party which will be open to all U5 – U10's, Here's your chance to let your kid's burn off some excess energy in the confines of the Club! Price per ticket is £10.00 and includes food & entertainment and of course a visit from the man himself

If you're brave enough to stop the bar will be open as an added bonus.

Date: Sunday 21st December 2014

Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Venue: HTFC clubhouse.

For Tickets Please contact Sharon Reaney – keefe35@sky.com or mobile: 0775 275 1995

Joanne Perry - mrsjopezza@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 0777 262 7196

December Senior Fixtures

Can't bear to be dragged round the shops, fighting your way through crowds looking for that special gift need an excuse for avoiding the Christmas shopping well look no further the 1st team have the following home League fixtures...

29th November v Newport Pagnell KO 3pm

6th December v Sleaford Town KO 3pm

13th Dec v Boston Town KO 3pm

16th Dec v N'hampton Sileby Ko 7.45pm

26th Dec v Desborough KO TBC



Looking For That Christmas Gift?



Christmas Kit- We are pleased to have the services of MDH Teamwear, HTFC kit supplier, come along to the clubhouse on **Saturday 29th November 2014** to showcase a range of club kit which will be on display for coaches, managers, parents, grandparents and other relatives who are looking for Christmas presents or stocking fillers.

Andy Sparrow from MDH Teamwear will have a display inside the **Members Bar from 9:30am until 2:00pm**. Orders can be made on the spot to Andy direct, who will then be able to confirm pre Christmas delivery for the most important part on Christmas Day - 'presents under the Christmas tree'. Anyone wishing to see the list of items which can be ordered for that extra special Christmas present, please contact: Marion Hayton at - Marion.hayton@yahoo.co.uk

Have you an event that needs advertising then please contact the Club so we can add to future issues.

Message to **ALL Coaches**

Before contacting Sue Fraser with queries please check your leagues website, FA Full time website or your handbooks the answer your looking for may be there.

Want to know how the teams are doing?

Just go to <http://full-time.thefa.com/> and type in the 1st 3 letters of your league you'll then be able to see all the fixtures, results, tables and lots more.

Also please visit our website, Facebook page or follow us on twitter
<https://twitter.com/HTFC75Official>

Remember it's your **CLUB** be part of it.

Walking Football



Are you 50+ and still wanting to don the boots? You've seen the Barclays advert and thought walking football that's the future for me but what's it about and where can I play? Well look no further... Walking Football is a slow-paced version of football aimed at the over 50's and is open to both male and females who are looking for some recreational sport. It is designed to help people keep an active lifestyle irrespective of their age, as well as getting those back playing football who perhaps had to stop due to injuries. So if you thought your playing days are over, then think again! If you fancy having a go please let us know as plans are under way to start Walking Football on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. For further information please contact: John Lynch at johnpatricklynch@hotmail.co.uk or Marion Hayton at Marion.hayton@yahoo.co.uk

On the Spot! Each month we'll put someone on the spot with searching, deep meaningful questions this month it's the turn of new U18's boss Simon Wellard

Name Simon Wellard

What is your Involvement @ HTFC?

Under 18s manager and under 10s coach.

Who are your Favourite team?

Liverpool

Who's your Favourite Player?

Steve Gerrard

What's your Most Memorable footballing Moment?

2005 Champions League Final

Describe the way you like football to be played in 10 words or less

Fast,, Passing

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

Badly – but am working on it (This is Simon not the team!!)

What's the Best thing about HTFC?

Facilities

What's Worst thing about HTFC?

Not being able to use them properly. 11 aside training on a third of a pitch!

Who are the best & worst players in your team & why?

James Maddison - very talented, Charlie West - great engine. No bad players!

Describe yourself in 10 words or less

Fair, hardworking and good fun.

If you fancy being featured just send in your answers and a photo to gary.wainwright@pentair.com and we'll print the most interesting



Harborough Town girls from the under 12 and under 13 squads proved to be very lucky mascots for

Leicester City Ladies as the home team beat Crusaders 7-0 on 2 November in the FA Cup. Our girls had a great time and got the additional treat of seeing home grown Lucie Mugridge have an impressive game for Leicester...Lucie helped set up the under 13s and was their coach for their first season. Pictured are Emily Jones and Ciara Hawthorne

Club announces major sponsorship from local college

Harborough Town First Team have sealed a new sponsorship deal for the 2014/15 season with Brooke House Football Academy. You may be aware that currently Harborough Town FC is the home of Brooke House Academy, and the academy trains and plays its games at Bowdens Park.

The objectives are for the Club to promote the Brooke House brand, the First Team kit now carries the Brooke House logo and a new sponsor board will be placed by the new turnstile entrance, this agreement will also see players from the academy being part of the First Team squad

The Club would also like to thank the following for their support in sponsoring teams..

Room for Music and Stonegate Eye Clinic - HTFC U7's

Kempston Controls - HTFC U13's 2012 –

FEB International – HTFC Vets

And last but by no means least....

Chairman's Chatter

Dear Member

Welcome to the second edition of the club newsletter

I thought this month I would try and share my views as to what the future could look like for the football club.

From the outside looking with forty teams and a fantastic facility I guess the perception is of a vibrant successful football club, but the reality is that Harborough Town are no different than any other grassroots football club, and one could argue that through the size of the club the challenges are that much bigger.

My view as Chairman is that the club should have a common identity across all of our activities and teams and that we provide a player pathway from five to sixty five. The first team currently play five leagues below the Football League, and the ambition has to be that we develop and educate Harborough players from the moment they join the club by providing the right opportunities so that when they reach seventeen they are ready to challenge for first team opportunities, and that we have a first team full of Harborough players who have come through the club system that can successfully compete at the higher levels of the game.

The club is blessed with a wonderful group of coaches and managers who give their time freely, we need to invest in our coaches and managers and for them to feel valued in the roles that they play. We speak about a player pathway, but to enable this we need to build a pathway for coaches, as exists in many other similar clubs across the country.

A football club needs to be the hub of the local community, a focal point not just for football but a place where people meet socially and have fun. The club as a whole has failed to deliver this and collectively this something that everyone connected to the club can help to change, by supporting club events and activities.

As Chairman I do not think the current financial structures and practices work, and these need to be reviewed so that the cost of playing football which is why we are all involved is kept to the minimum and is comparable to other clubs with similar facilities.

The club is run by volunteers who give their time freely, and for some that is a huge commitment almost a fulltime job. That cannot be sustainable for volunteers and we need more people to step forward to work as administrators, arrange social events, and help drive the club forward. People are often reticent of volunteering because of the volume of work involved, even if you can only spare a couple of hours a week that would be of such valuable assistance, and as we go the band of volunteers to run the club this will increase the sense of ownership and desire to be involved.

If I turn my thoughts to the facility, we need to find a way to maximise the potential of the amazing grassing football facility. One of the biggest complaints that I field is that the club facilities are not open at a time when members want to use them which primarily evenings and at weekends. As a club we have to address this issue and find a way that will enable the club to be fully operational during day for commercial activities and in the evenings and at weekends for club members

By far the biggest challenge of any grassroots football club is finance, and Harborough Town is no different. Since the opening of the new facility and the coming together of in effect three separate clubs the financial challenges have been immense. The reality is that despite the very best efforts and huge commitment from many people the club has struggled to run as a business. If the club is to survive and prosper on and off the pitch this has to change going forward. A new structure has to be embraced, the club needs to become far more commercially minded in how the facility is marketed, and how we communicate within our membership and more importantly externally to the outside world.

As Chairman my view is that the club is at a crossroads, if we do not change the way we operate then I am not that the club in its present guise is sustainable in the long term, or we can take a leap of faith embrace the pool of talent and knowledge that exists across the club membership and start building a football club for the future, that is vibrant successful and a real hub for the local community.

I hope for the long term future of Harborough Town my thoughts will encourage club members to step forward and be part of an exciting future, as without people my vision for the club cannot succeed.

As this is the final newsletter before Christmas can I thank who has committed so much to the club during 2014 for your amazing efforts, without each and everyone of you there would not be a football club, and as we look into 2015 there is a huge opportunity to build something very special for Market Harborough. I sincerely hope you will be want to be part of that journey, if you do please drop me an email at Laurence652@btinternet.com

Wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Laurence Jones
Chairman
Harborough Town Football Club and Bowdens Park Charity.

Club Contacts

- Chief Executive Officer and Trustee: Laurence Jones 07739 592517 laurence652@btinternet.com
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- Youth Section Chair: Marion Hayton 07785 614414 marion.hayton@yahoo.co.uk
- General Secretary: Sue Fraser 07538 550519 suehtfc@gmail.com
- Club Welfare Officer: Elaine Pepler 07710 128220 c.pepler@btinternet.com

How do you find this newsletter? –The correct answer here is not in my inbox!! What would you like to see in future editions, should it be monthly? Please send us your feedback, we'd love to know what you think.