



The Buzz

Harborough Town Football Club newsletter
November 2015

Events calendar

Race Night Sat 21st November

Fancy a night at the races?
This is always a great night
out with a chance to back a
winner. Doors open @7.30PM
first race 8.00pm. £5.00
entrance that can be paid on
the door

Xmas Party Sunday 20th Dec

Father Christmas is coming
to town details to follow.

Club Xmas Raffle

The Club are holding a Xmas
raffle with a top prize of
£1000.00 plus many more
prizes. See newsletter for
details

We want you!

The Club is looking for
parents who wish to join a
group to create a Club
fundraising sub-group.

We are looking for parents
who have some spare time,
creativity and enjoy
fundraising.

Those who are interested
please email Jo Perry
mrsjopezza@hotmail.co.uk

Chairman's Chatter

Well winter is now here the clocks have gone back, and all of our teams are now well into the season. The club is becoming a very vibrant place to be on match days, and with the first team at their highest ever position there is a great atmosphere at home games, with an increasing young and very vocal support.

We want to build more than a football club, we want to build a real community venue but we can only do this if more people support the social events that the club hosts.

The trustees with Joseph and Selena have invested in a stage and a professional sound and lighting system for the main function room so that we can host live music at the club.

It is vital for the club that we increase revenues from outside of football so that we can maintain and improve what is an outstanding facility, as well as keeping the annual subs at a reasonable level.

With 47 teams we are one of the largest clubs in the Country, and it is all run by a very small but dedicated group of volunteers, and we would welcome more volunteers to step forward to help run the club.

Over the last six months on behalf of the Trustees I have been working on a project to replace the enclosed grass pitch by the clubhouse with an artificial turf pitch to FIFA accreditation which will increase our capacity to stage games and open up the main pitch to all teams in the club.

It will also allow the club to relocate the grass pitches to the other side of the pathway which will allow the club to have higher quality grass pitches, which we will fence off at some stage in the future. The project also includes an extension to the club car park and resurfacing the existing car park.

This is a very significant project for the future of the club, and if we are successful in securing funding it will provide Market Harborough with an outstanding football facility, in my opinion it will be one of the best venues in the country at our level of the game and will secure the long term viability of the football club. The Trustees have now submitted a funding application to Harborough District Council who I have been working closely with and who have been very supportive over the last four months and

we are also working with the County Football Association/Football Foundation and two other funding partners to raise the funds required to cover the costs of the artificial turf pitch. It is also pleasing to report that the Trustees have been able to negotiate a new fifty year lease with Harborough District Council.

It is my intention to call an open club meeting in January by which time we will know whether we have been successful in securing funding for the facility project as our aim (if our applications are successful) is to have the new pitch, car park and relocate the grass pitches in time for the start of next season.

There are of course no guarantees that we will be successful in this funding round but we have submitted a very robust application and I would like to thank the Trustees for their work in enabling the submission to be made in what was a very tight timescale.

As Chairman I sincerely hope that everyone sees that the club is changing. Our aims are to build a successful friendly community football club that provides football for all ages ability and gender that has a vibrant social scene, we have a fabulous social committee who are trying their very best, fantastic volunteers who run the club, dedicated and highly committed coaches and an amazing facility that the trustees are working hard to improve. All we need now is to bring all of this together with everyone using the club, supporting football and social events so please come and join us and together we can continue to build something very special for the community.

Without the support of everyone who is connected to the club we cannot deliver the vision that we set out at the last club meeting but together anything is possible.

Finally from me as winter gathers momentum spare a thought for Kez and Ivan who work tirelessly with limited resources to make sure we have decent pitches, the facility is clean and tidy, and always looking smart. As we enter the muddy times of the season lets respect and protect our facility and as best we can keep the mud outside of the club, and put litter in the bins provided. Your co-operation would be very much appreciated and to Kez and Ivan a huge thank you for the amazing job you are doing it really is appreciated.

As always if anyone has any specific questions or needs information please email me at Laurence.jones@harbouroughtownfc.org.

Enjoy your football

Laurence C Jones
Chairman
Harborough Town Community Trust
Tel 07739 592517

www.harbouroughtownfc.org

Harborough Town FC Seniors

Harborough Town First team and reserves have both enjoyed good solid starts to the season. The first team has produced some excellent performances this season pushing title contenders Leicester Nirvana and Kirby Muxloe all the way and picking up valuable wins against teams that are in and around them.

A couple of those wins came against our local rivals Desborough Town and Rothwell Corinthians, winning those games 4-2 and 2-1 respectively.

Danny Wright and Jordan Crawford are leading the way with 9 goals and 6 goals respectively with new summer signing Barnes Gladman scoring 4 goals. The defence, apart from a couple of performances, are very strong and hard to break down and if teams do get in behind them we have the formidable Glen Giles in goal to keep them at bay. The team has amassed 11 points MORE than they had got by Christmas last season, so a massive improvement and congratulations to the hard work of the Management team, players and backroom staff.

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](#)

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**.

One of the main features down at Bowden's Park this season has been the newly formed 'barmy army,' as they affectionately call themselves. The Management team of Nick Pollard and Chris Church have commented that the 'atmosphere at home games is fantastic and the singing from start to finish gives the player's a massive lift', (our average gate for home games is around 130). Perhaps they can take some credit for the great start, keep supporting the lads, but in the right manner and remember to stay OFF the pitch when we score!

The reserves have equally impressed this season and currently sit top of the reserve league, a point ahead of their nearest rivals and having a game in hand!! I know Tony Sansome, reserve team Manager, is delighted with the start, especially with such a young and sometimes inexperienced side.

The pleasing aspect watching both the first team and reserves is seeing the number of players from last season's U17's and U16's breaking through into the senior teams. Players like Sam Edwards and Joel Konteh, are regular names on the team sheet of the first team, with other player's George Lawton, Matt Brown, Oscar Trier and latterly Nathan Parekh-Downes all being in and around the first team squad and figuring regularly for the reserves along with other youngster's from the U18 midweek team, such as George Ball. This is extremely pleasing and exciting for the club as a whole as it sends out the right message to our aspiring youngster's that they will be given a chance by the senior teams and that their initial venture into senior football lies with Harborough Town where in the past they would have had to chase other avenues for men's football.

The Vets also remain unbeaten in the calendar year of 2015 and last weekend booked a quarter final place in the County Cup.

So the season has started well, long may it continue and we look forward to seeing you at a game soon!

Yours Sincerely,
Peter Dougan - Senior Football Chairman.

U16 Girls News

Back in September U16 Girls coach Marie-Claude was approached by the centre manager of the Northamptonshire FA Girls Advanced Coaching Centre and invited to send any interested girls from her squad to attend a three week trial with them. The centre is the first step on the female talent pathway where players can then be selected for regional and national camps. Players continue playing for their own club with no danger of being 'scouted' away by the centre. They train once a week at the Brooke Weston Academy in Corby and play six fixtures throughout the year during holidays and evenings etc.. Almost half the squad attended the sessions, which was an excellent turn out by the girls, and four of the girls were successful in achieving selection on to the team. The sessions were interesting and useful, and regardless of who did get selected, the ongoing benefits for MC and the team are fantastic. Big congratulations go to Jenna Such, Mollie Watson, Niamh Watson and Caitlin Marshall, and a big well done goes to Marie-

Claude, the enthusiasm and success of ALL the girls is a direct reflection of her commitment and time she gives every week.



Under 8's New Coach Arrives In Style

The Under 8's Royals have welcomed the recent appointment of Andrew Georghion as coach. We have heard nothing but glowing reports from satisfied parents on the fantastic job he is doing with the Team who are now proclaiming the next stop is the premier league!! Andrew as you can see from the photo below has also found a great way of putting the signing on fees to a good use (looks better than a rain jacket). Welcome to HTFC Andrew.



(It's actually not his car - he just borrowed it off a friend for the weekend – Honest Laurence)

On the Spot!

Each month we'll put someone on the spot with deep, meaningful questions. This month it's the turn of walking football star Matt Carpenter (3rd from the right back row below)

What is your involvement at HTFC / who are your favourite team?

I originate from the South West however moved to Market Harborough in 1996 with my long suffering wife Hayley who is from the town and a work move taking me to the Midlands. Already 36 years of age i already had a passion for our great game through playing in Somerset and through being a fanatical Southampton FC supporter from 1966 when my father took me to the Dell the season after England had won the World Cup. With 3 sons already then and twin boys born in 2000 it is natural that i started a long standing involvement with Harborough Town Football Club. Sam and Josh both played for HTFC Juniors with Josh playing a handful of times for the 1st team after leaving Luton Town FC before moving to the USA to play. Sam played up to U17 and Max currently plays for U-15's. I of course have assisted ALL of my sons teams usually as an excellent linesman or as they are called nowadays Assistant Referee. With my playing days well behind me I have reignited my footballing career by becoming a team member of the glorious Harborough Town over 50's Walking Football Team where my super silky skills have been brought out of retirement and put into good practice! Room for more if we have any interested oldies amongst you!

Who's your favourite player?

Of my 49 seasons watching the Saints only 11 have been spent outside the top flight. I grew up admiring the skills and talent of such players as Martin Chivers, Terry Paine and Mike Channon. Two of my favourite players - One from that era was a remarkable Welsh centre forward called Ron Davies who was on a TV show called Magpie in 1970. Kids, if you have not heard the name then look him up!!! The other you WILL remember. The one and only MR SOUTHAMPTON the magician that is "Le God", Matt Le Tissier.

What's your most memorable footballing moment?

My most memorable footballing moment was as a 15 year old at Wembley in May 1976. Southampton were in the then 2nd Division and we beat the mighty Manchester United 1-0 with a Bobby Stokes goal in the 83rd minute. What a day that was!!

Describe the way you like football to be played:

I'm a believer in "pass and move" and playing neat football. However, winning is the most important thing and doing what it takes, mostly within the rules to achieve that. So there are times you have to mix things up a bit. Sometimes our Harborough Teams are "a bit nice" and we need some lads to tough it out a bit more against some of the "City" boys! Generally the teams I have been involved with and indeed the Saints have tried to play football in the right way!

What's the best thing about HTFC?

The best thing about HTFC and a new phenomenon this season has been the introduction of "The Ultras". We need to keep the young lads "in tow" however they are helping to create a positive atmosphere at Bowden's Park and have clearly had a positive impact on the players!! Good on them.

What's the worst thing about HTFC?

The area of the club that needs most work is "galvanising" its mantra and reputation and influence within the community. Some of the plans agreed by the Board are already starting to influence this. It will be great to have regular HTFC coordinated events at HTFC that get packed out on a regular basis. This is the thing that frustrates me most about the club because in all my 20 years plus associated with the club this is something that has never been cracked!

Best and worst players in my team?

I cannot believe any coaches would ever answer that as a bit harsh on someone in the team! So in that respect I will think about best and worst Southampton players in all the years I have supported them. We know that the best is Matt Le Tissier. However in 1996 Graeme Souness signed a player called Ali Dia without having seen him play on the recommendation of the great George Weah. Of course it wasn't him and Ali came on as substitute against Leeds and it was clear that he wasn't even a pub player standard. He got hauled off again in about 10 minutes!!

Describe yourself in 10 words or less:

"Someone that likes a laugh but also likes to win"!!

Worth mentioning that I recently attended Saints Fan Forum and my questioning of Ronald Koeman is on the Saints website.



Walking Football

The number of players participating in walking football on a Wednesday night 6 – 7pm is steadily increasing and the aim is to try and get 20 plus players so we can not only play amongst ourselves but begin to pit our skills against other teams. If you're interested please come along and enjoy a game and the social crack afterwards.

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 every team has been allocated tickets. Not only are the many top prizes up for grabs but we are also offering a team prize as an incentive to the team that sells the most tickets which will be decided by the team that has sold the most. Hopefully this will create some healthy competition between the teams as well as boosting ticket sales.

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 20th December

Social Media

Website news

Changeover to the new NPC website didn't quite go as planned for the start of October. Whilst the site looks good, testing of its functionality showed that many features were more basic when compared to the current Pitchero site, especially for admin users. A comparison report has been sent for review and final decision to be made by the Trustees, and any further updates will be posted on the website news section. With regards to the current site, Pitchero will be publishing user guides in the near future to assist admin users with simple advice and guidance in how to use it. On notification I will email these out to managers and team admins, which will hopefully encourage more team usage of the site.

Thanks
Sean

Housekeeping

Sue Fraser has advised the below and would request that these are cleared up ASAP...

1. Team Officials and Sponsors Details: Still quite a number outstanding, please respond by return.
2. Individual Team Bank Statements: Many statements still coming to the club, Teams need to complete and return the re-direction form (given out at the Manager's Meeting on 25th August) to have the statements forwarded direct to team. There is a pile of statements in the club office for teams to collect please.
3. Match Confirmation: Please ensure that teams are sending the revised match confirmation letter within the prescribed deadline for their appropriate league. This is available on the club website under Information. We have had several complaints from visiting spectators that they were unaware that we do not permit dogs (except guide dogs) on our facility.
4. Postponements: When requesting me to postpone a fixture, please include the full details in your email e.g. league/division/opposition/match official etc. so that I do not have to spend time finding out this info. Also, specifically to teams in the Sunday Juniors League, I need more information per their postponement request form so please supply. (Form available on the league website).

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

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!



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@harbortownfc.org or

Joseph & Selena at catering@harbortownfc.org

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

John