

## **Chairman's Report to AGM 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

This report covers the 12 months to the end of June 2022, but I will also refer to events that have been happening since then. Well, what a strange game football is, who would have predicted the top four of the Premier League at the World Cup break – Arsenal, Man City, Newcastle and Spurs.

So a quick look back to last season – we were top at Xmas, battled our way through the play offs, got to the final, only to just miss out on a return to the Championship

If we look back over the last three seasons, it's been an amazing run – promoted to the Championship in 19/20, relegated by 1 point in 20/21 and lost in play off final in 21/22. That's a tremendous performance on the pitch, so thanks to Gareth and his teams for that and for an amazing 10 years in charge.

What has the Trust achieved in this last year?

- We've continued with the "open to all" Trust board meetings so members can see and hear what is going on at the Trust. I'd like to encourage a lot more members to join in with these meetings.
- We have worked hard with Peter Lerner to strengthen the DSA and it now has a Chair, secretary, comms officer, membership officer and away travel officer.
- We've worked to widen the reach of the Trust and the Club to minority communities, inviting the Wycombe Muslim community to the game against Doncaster in April, when 275 attended and again recently at the Family day game vs Morecambe when 75 attended.
- Helped to create the multi faith prayer room, which was opened in April 22 by Benedict, the Club chaplain and the Imam from the Wycombe mosque.
- We've supported WWW with funds and a huge amount of time and effort to help drive them forward. They've raised over £40k in sponsorship, for this year which is fantastic, as all the money to run WWW comes from donations or sponsorship and players fees. As well as being Chair of the Trust, I am also Chair of WWW and we need more people to help us run the teams. If you think you can help us please get in touch with me either later tonight or email me.
- Fundraising has been really successful, with both online auctions and the QBC. Together they have raised over £20k and we'll continue with both in the future, as I believe members enjoy them, in addition to the money they raise.
- We've supported the All-Quarters project which along with the Club and SET is reaching out and working with those with disability, women, LGBT+ and ethnic communities.
- And then there's the volunteers, who provide help on a weekly basis at the Club and training ground, plus the matchday volunteers who man the car park, help in the shop, pull pints and help with the nets. They together save the Club £000's each year. But we really struggle sometimes on match days, especially at high attendance

games. We really need more people who are willing to pull pints and help in the car park for a couple of hours pre game. Please think about giving us some of your time. If you can help either email me or Georgina Heritage on [georgina@4everblues.com](mailto:georgina@4everblues.com)

- We organised the stadium seat cleaning in July 21 and again in July 22 – volunteers again.

We've also tried to keep members updated with some of the many things that have been going on in the Club and in football generally. Here's a few of them.

- We had Gareth join a Trust meeting in July 21
- We sent out a survey from the FSA about Women fans attending football.
- The Trust took part in Wycombe Heritage day in the town centre in August 21
- We've had guests at the Trust table on match days to answer members queries– last year Pete Couhig, Alan Parry, Rob Couhig, Play off trophy, WWWx3, Phil Catchpole, Keith Ryan all joined us. We'd like to change the format of the table going forward so that there is one Trust director and 1 trust member running it on match days. So we need somewhere between 8 and 12 members to come forward and help us to do that. Please email me/the Trust if you are willing to help.
- We are also getting a gazebo for the table in the car park so that we're protected from the weather.
- We told you about Afghan girls' journey to freedom
- We had an audience with Rob Couhig in January 21
- We ran an online quiz for members
- We told you about the FSA survey on Womens football and of course all the latest updates on the FLR
- And I will continue to bring all of these things to your attention as we progress through this year via my monthly updates, so you are constantly in the picture with what's going on. If there are any other areas that you would like to be kept up to date on, let me know.

It goes without saying that we have worked with both Club management and the owners in many areas and put forward ideas on improvements, your views on specific issues and answered queries from members when they have been raised with us.

At this point I'd like to thank a number of people and recognise what they have done for the Trust and the Club.

- Gareth Ainsworth and his management team, we couldn't have got where we are without them.
- The Trust board – they like many others, are all volunteers and between them put in many, many hours work on your behalf – and put up with some pretty unhelpful criticism at time too.
- You the members – your support both financially, your work as volunteers and your backing for what we have been trying to do has been really excellent.

- Matt Cecil and his media team for all the support they have given WWW and the Trust in general and Ben Griffiths in the ticket office

So, what next?

Well, we're in a good place in the League, 10<sup>th</sup> on 25 points and just 3 below the play offs. We've got 30 games to go, so 90 points available. Everything is possible including the return to the Championship, that Gareth, Rob Couhig and all of us are striving for.

We will

1. Do whatever we can to help the Football Club get promoted to the Championship
2. Be your voice and influence with the Club, so that the Club is aware of your views wherever possible.
3. Keep you updated with everything that is going on in the wider world of football
4. Aim to widen our reach and involvement in the Community and thus take the Trust and the Club into new areas.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to continuing to lead the Trust in its work to support our amazing football club.