

Captain's Notes (season 2010-2011)

Dover

Welcome to today's game against Dover.

As this is the last home league game of the year other than the Kent cup final I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the course of season. It has been a really up and down year with some great wins and a few embarrassing losses. Our cup form was brilliant and I am sure we will all take away some fond memories from our FA Cup run and particularly the games against Port Vale. On the other hand it took us far too long to find our feet in the league and this has resulted in a pretty mediocre mid-table finish. We have a better team than our league position suggests, but the plain facts are that we have not shown it on a consistent basis at all. You can't perform well one week and so poorly the next and this happened far too often. The last couple of months has shown what could have been if a few things had gone more our way but it wasn't to be. Hopefully you all have enjoyed our first season in the Blue Square South, as we have, and will all be back next year to give it another go.

In terms of the past week, it has been a pretty poor and frustrating. I think we all expected us to put on a show against Boreham Wood and make up for the embarrassing loss at their place earlier in the season. But we certainly didn't get anything like that, and if anything it was just as bad. We have completely gone to pot a few times this season and it was no where near even being close to good enough. I apologise to all those that had to watch it. We wanted a response at Havant on Monday night and I think we got it, but yet again we let in a poor goal and paid the price. I think we dominated most of the game but I can't remember us having a shot of any note despite having about 20 corners and free kicks around their box. So two defeats in a week has put everyone down in the dumps a little bit. As I write this we have not yet played against Bromley so I hope we manage to pick up some points there and hopefully finish the season on a bit of a high.

Today will be another tough game with Dover pushing for a playoff spot. But we seem to have raised our game against the bigger teams this year and I am sure we will do the same again today, There are three points up for grabs today and we want them.

Again, thanks for your support both today and throughout the season.

Come on you Darts!!

Bradders.

Boreham Wood

Welcome to today's game against Boreham Wood.

Today is really important for us as I think our performance in the game against Boreham Wood earlier in the season was probably our poorest performance of the entire year. We really didn't turn up on the day, and it was one of the few times where I have literally been embarrassed to be on the football pitch. It was an unacceptable performance and I know the boys are looking forward to putting it right today. Although this will not be easy with Boreham Wood fighting for their lives at the bottom of the table with only a few games left.

From our point of view though, we are certainly looking for a top 10 finish and there is another big three points up for grabs today. We are coming off a great performance and win last week against Woking, so confidence is high at the moment and we want to finish on as many points as possible. Hopefully starting with another win today.

As always, thanks for your support.

Bradders.

Woking:

Welcome to today's game against Woking.

This is going to be another tough test for us. Woking have been absolutely flying since we last played them and are looking likely to grab a play-off place. To be honest, I think we deserved to get three points against them earlier in the season but we ended up with another draw. It is going to take a lot of hard work to get anything out of today's game, particularly as we find ourselves a bit short on numbers. It seems to have been a bit of a tough week for us in terms of injuries as a number of people have picked up knocks and/or muscle pulls in the last couple of games.

Having said that, it was great to beat Ramsgate on Tuesday night and book a place in the Kent cup final. Ramsgate is not the nicest of places to have to play, and the hard and bobbly pitch made it pretty much impossible to play any decent football so it ended up being pretty ugly. But to be fair, the attitude was great on the night and it was a case of digging in and doing a job. I was particularly pleased with the young lads that came in and did a great job for us, which we are going to need again over the next few weeks as people recover from injuries.

Hopefully we will have a good crowd in today and we can dig out another result.

Thanks for your support.

Bradders.

Lewes:

Welcome to today's game against Lewes.

The boys were very disappointed after the draw with St. Albans on Tuesday night. We played some decent stuff throughout the game and had quite a few chances to put the game to bed in the first half, but it wasn't to be. Fair play to them as they came and did a job, but from our point of view that was certainly two points dropped that we really should have won. Despite that, we should also take some positives from the game - it was a vast improvement from the performance against Staines last Saturday and we also showed some grit and determination again to see the game out with only 10 men on the pitch.

Today's game will be another battle, with Lewes doing all they can to avoid relegation. But if we play like we did on Tuesday night, and with a little bit more composure in front of goal, we have a great chance of taking all three points. I think we deserved three points when we played down there earlier in the season and only managed a draw, so let's hope we can put that right with a win today.

Thanks for your support.

Bradders.

St Albans City:

Welcome to tonight's game against St. Albans.

Tonight is another big game for us, particularly after such a poor performance against Staines on Saturday. Nothing more can be said that hasn't been said behind closed doors already. Yes it was a bad game from our point of view, yes we really didn't show up on the day, and yes we should have performed a lot better. But none of that really makes any difference now. We can't change it or do anything about it other than to go out and put it right tonight. Everyone was disappointed after Saturday, but we have been in this position before and we know that a good performance is needed tonight to get back on track. We have managed to dig ourselves out of trouble with hard work and determination, and that was missing on Saturday, so we need to find that again.

We will not be taking St. Albans lightly. They are having some problems but I don't think their league position really reflects the sort of team they are, plus they have had a decent couple of results in the past couple of weeks. Anyone can beat anyone in this league and we have not been at our best against the teams at the bottom of the league this year have we??

Hopefully tonight will be a lot better.

Thanks for your support.

Bradders.

Eastleigh:

Welcome to tonight's game against Eastleigh.

We were beaten pretty convincingly by Eastleigh earlier in the year but we have a chance tonight to show how far we have come this season. We have been on a pretty consistent run for a couple of months now, so I fully expect us to put in a good performance tonight and keep us on track for a decent finish. There are still plenty of games left to play yet, and anything can happen so we will be working hard to finish as high as possible. I am very proud of how we have managed to turn things around since early January, so it would be disappointing to let things slip away now. This is another game against a team higher than us in the league, so there is no pressure and we will be looking to take another valuable three points.

A draw against Basingstoke on Saturday was not the best result. We let in a couple of really poor goals, which just goes to show that Brucy has spent a little too much time at the Andrew Young school of keeping the ball out of your own goal. It's a good job their captain was right there to.....miss an open goal and secure just the one point rather than all three. Brilliant!! Anyway it keeps us on an unbeaten run which gives everyone confidence, and hopefully we can keep that going tonight. Thanks for your support.

Bradders.

Whitstable Town:

Welcome to tonight's game against Whitstable Town.

It is back to cup football again tonight. We have been doing very well in the league of late, but tonight is another opportunity to progress in a cup competition. Whitstable are obviously of a lower league than us but we will be giving them the upmost respect and hopefully perform to our best and get through the next round. It would be nice to win some silverware this season, so we will be treating this like any other game. They are bound to come here and raise their game, so we will need to do things right to get a result.

It was another pleasing win against Maidenhead on Saturday. We rode our luck a little bit with them hitting the bar and Youngy pulling off a few good saves, but I think we created a number of chances ourselves and could realistically have been 3-1 up at half time. But it was another ugly game and we had to grind out the result. Maybe some of that luck that was deserting us early in the year is returning and we are getting the rub of the green a bit. We are all putting in a lot of hard work so it is nice to see the ball rolling our way.

Hopefully we can keep this good run going with another win tonight. Thanks for your support.

Bradders.

Maidenhead:

Welcome to today's game against Maidenhead.

This is another big game for us. Maidenhead are struggling a little bit in terms of league position, but we have all seen how our performances have been against teams lower than us so far. In all honesty we have performed pretty badly against teams towards the bottom of the league this year (namely Boreham Wood, Thurrock and Hampton). We need to remember that no game is going to be easy and we have to concentrate on being hard to beat and doing our jobs in the right way each and every game. Otherwise we will get beaten, and that has happened far too many times already. Maidenhead will come here looking for a result, and we need to be at our best.

Last night's win against Basingstoke was really pleasing. It was an ugly game but one that we have managed to win. We have got a little bit of luck with the goal but I think we were good value for the points. Earlier in the season we may well have lost a game like that, which shows how quickly your fortunes can change in this game. Hopefully that will continue.

Please get behind us again today. As ever, thanks for your support.

Bradders.

Basingstoke:

Welcome to tonight's game against Basingstoke.

Unfortunately Saturday's game against Havant was cancelled, but to be honest I think it was for the best. Some of us are struggling with tiredness and niggling injuries at the moment, so the rest was a welcome one. We were all bitterly disappointed with last weekend's result against Hampton, where we were very poor. We just didn't turn up on the day and were well beaten, but we managed to bounce back with another good win at Dorchester on Tuesday night which was very pleasing. I think that win shows how this far this squad has come this season, as earlier in the year we may well have lost that game. We are now sitting in a very promising place in the league with a lot of games left to go, and tonight is another big game with another big three points at stake.

Thanks for your support, and particularly to those who made the trip down to Dorchester on Tuesday. Another great effort.

Bradders.

Hampton & Richmond Borough

Welcome to today's game against Hampton & Richmond Borough.

This is a game I have personally been looking forward to for a while now. The loss we suffered at Hampton earlier in the season sticks in my mind because I think we dominated that game despite playing with 10 men for about 85 minutes after Goody was (in my opinion) unfortunately sent off. It was one of two or three games this season where I do not think we got what we deserved. So I would really like to put it right today with three points.

We are on a great run at the moment. Confidence is back in the dressing room and it is nice to be enjoying playing again. We have played some tough teams over the past few weeks and to be unbeaten in our last seven league games is a great achievement. A couple of fantastic results has really transformed our season, particularly the wins against the likes of Farnborough and Braintree both with 10 men. Although, the result I was most pleased with was the away win at Weston last week. I think it really shows how we are starting to pull together after going all the way down there on a Tuesday night and coming back with three points, particularly after a long trip to Gateshead over the previous weekend. We are starting to show that we have got a bit about us and we will not just roll over and die, which is very pleasing.

Finally, I would just like to thank all of those who travelled up to support us at Gateshead. All the players were really surprised to see how many people had made the effort when we walked out for kick off. It really means a lot to us to have so many people coming and supporting us, and I know many of the same people travelled down to the Weston game a few days later too. A top effort guys, thank you.

Bradders.

Braintree Town:

Welcome to tonight's game against Braintree Town.

Braintree are absolutely flying this season and full credit to them. I think we have all found out that this is not an easy league to be part of, so the fact that they are doing so well is impressive. Although we all know the only reason they are doing so well is because they managed to ship out most of their back four in the summer. Just getting rid of the dead wood, completely understandable....cough cough!!

This is going to be another tough game for us, but we are certainly on our best run of the season. We are starting to play with a bit of freedom and confidence and you can definitely see that reflected in our results over the past couple of weeks. Beating a good Farnborough team so convincingly and with 10 men was a great effort and Saturday's win at Bishops Cleeve showed that we can pull together and get points away from home.

Hopefully we can keep this run going and start moving ourselves up the league. The performance is the main thing tonight and I am sure if we carry on playing the way we have been we have a great chance of taking something from this game.

As always, thanks for your continued support. Much appreciated.

Bradders.

Farnborough:

Welcome to today's game against Farnborough.

After a couple of decent results, both on Saturday and a well earned point against Staines on Tuesday night, there is an incentive to keep this run going. To be fair, Farnborough beat us quite convincingly a few months ago, in probably one of the few games this season where we really didn't deserve anything at all. Regardless of how we have played this year, I think we have deserved a bit more than we have got from most games, but there is no point moaning about that now. This will be another tough game against a team that are going really well at the moment, but we will be out there again fighting for a result.

I think Tuesday night was a real improvement in the way we have been playing of late. We looked dangerous going forward at times and pretty solid at the back, with them scoring from one of maybe two or three shots on goal. Their keeper has pulled off a few decent saves and we have hit the post, so all in all I think we were good value for all three points. But it wasn't to be, so we will take a point and move on. If we can continue to pick up points like that, we will slowly and surely start moving out of trouble.

So please get behind the team as your support is important to us.

Bradders.

Thurrock:

Welcome to today's game against Thurrock.

Needless to say, this is a massive game for us. It has come to a point in the season where we have to focus on beating the teams around us in the league and counting anything gained against the top teams as a bonus. The priority is to stay in this league now, and there are plenty of points still available with which to do this. Thurrock are down at the bottom with us, and if I am honest, anything less than a win today is unacceptable. If we do not get three points today we are well and truly in a dogfight, so we need to start digging ourselves out of trouble quickly.

I would just like to thank those supporters who remain focused on where this club has come from and what it has achieved in a relatively short space of time. For the first time since I have been at this club, I have begun to hear a lot of negative shouts from the crowd and/or written on websites etc. A lot of this is getting very personal and directed at individuals which really doesn't help at all.

Especially considering that for every mistake made, that individual has probably saved us on another occasion whether it be preventing a goal or scoring one.

I realise this comes from a small minority in the crowd and I fully appreciate that we are struggling at the moment, but I think it is important to remember that this only makes the situation worse. We all want this club to succeed and we all want to play good football and win every game.

Unfortunately, football doesn't work like that. Irrespective of what some of you may think, each and every player and the management want this club to do well, just like you do. None of us like to lose.

So let's get everyone moving in the same direction. We have some massive games coming up in the next few weeks and we are going to need everyone's support.

Bradders.

Welling/Chelmsford:

Welcome to today's game. I would firstly like to wish everyone a happy New Year and I hope you all had a good Christmas. I am writing this just after our away trip to Weston was snowed off and before our Boxing Day game against Welling so I do not yet know how our Christmas period games have gone, but I hope the weather didn't get in the way too much more.

We are now roughly half way through the season. It has been a really mixed year so far with great experiences in the FA Cup and FA Trophy, but a bit of an up and down time in the league. Despite our league position and a few disappointing defeats we have shown glimpses of what we are capable of especially against the likes of Port Vale and Crawley. Doing well in cup competitions is nice but it is our league position that really needs to improve between now and the end of the season. It has definitely taken a lot longer than expected for us to gel as a team, but we are certainly capable of moving much higher up the league table in the next few months, and if we can do that I think this season would be classed as a success. But again, there is a long way to go and a lot of hard work ahead of us.

2010 was certainly a memorable year for everyone involved with Dartford Football Club and it was great to be a part of it. The management team and players all really appreciate your support and I know you will continue to get behind us in 2011.

Bradders.

Tonbridge Angels:

Welcome to tonight's game against Tonbridge Angels.

We have not had a home game for a couple of weeks, so this gives me a chance to catch up. I would firstly like to thank all of those people who travelled up to Port Vale to support us in the FA Cup replay. Obviously the result didn't go our way, but the support you gave us was amazing and the atmosphere was great. So thank you for making the effort, we all appreciate it.

We got a good win against Thurrock last weekend. I think it was important to bounce back after the disappointment of the Dorchester and Port Vale games, and we did that. It was a bit of an ugly game but a win is a win, and Danny Harris managed to continue his awful one-on-one record for the season. So congratulations Tinman. Any danger of sticking one in??

I think we played really well against Woking on Saturday. We conceded two soft goals which was disappointing but I think we were good value for a point. Again, I would look at that as another two points dropped, which has happened all too often this season. George has come in and scored a great goal for us and shown Rooky how to score from more than two yards out.....not sure he knows what that feels like. Also, hopefully Youngy has found his way out of the quicksand to make it to the game tonight. I think my Nan could have saved the first one....or even John Mcrae?? Maybe not.

Hopefully we can put in another good performance tonight and take all three points.

Bradders.

Dorchester:

Welcome to today's game against Dorchester.

Firstly, I would just like to thank everyone for the tremendous support we received last weekend against Port Vale. That is the sort of performance this team is capable of and it really helps when there are 4,000 people behind you believing you can win. Nobody could disagree that we completely outplayed them and deserved a result, and that is a testament to everyone involved. Hopefully we can give them another tough game on Tuesday night and just see what happens.

The Port Vale performance definitely gave everybody a lot of confidence and I think that carried over into the Dover game. We rode our luck at times with Hayzie scoring direct from a corner and Youngy saving a penalty, but it's the bit of luck we have needed and perhaps deserved. Things have not gone our way much this year but it is amazing what a little bit of belief and confidence can do (for both players and supporters). We know we are good enough to compete in this league and now is the time to go on a bit of a run and move up the table.

Dorchester will be another tough game, but a win today would be massive for us and put us right back in the mix. So another big performance is needed.

Bradders.

Port Vale:

Welcome to today's FA Cup first round tie against Port Vale.

This is obviously a very important day for everyone concerned with Dartford Football Club, and one that does not come around very often. It has been 20 odd years since the club has got this far and to be rewarded with a home draw against Football League opposition is great. The FA Cup is a fantastic competition and I hope everyone enjoys and remembers the day.

As players there is no pressure on us whatsoever. Port Vale are high flying in League 2 at the moment and everybody expects them to win comfortably. But we know from experience that it is not easy to travel away to lower league opposition and pull off a result. A few Football League sides will lose to lower opposition today, so why can't that happen here? Every year a non-league team progresses to the later rounds of the cup and I know we are capable of achieving that.

We are clearly massive underdogs, but this is a great chance to cause an upset. I would not fancy being in their dressing room today, as nobody will notice if they win, but everyone will if they lose. I don't think anyone needs any more motivation for this one, so make some noise and let's see what happens.

See you on MOTD!!

Bradders

Leiston:

Welcome to tonight's game against Leiston.

It is not a secret that things are not going well at the moment. If we are all honest, we have been poor for a while now, both individually and collectively. There have been glimpses of what we are capable of but not on a consistent basis. We have been conceding goals regularly and failing to score when it matters. Everyone needs a little bit of luck to change the tide, but I think there are far too many excuses flying around at the moment. There comes a point as a player when you have to stop waiting for your fortunes to change and start making it happen. We have a lot of talented and experienced players, and I think it's time for us to pull together and get on with the job.

I am sure everyone is aware of the draw. Many of us will not get a better opportunity to get in the first round proper and with a home tie against Port Vale at stake, there is no better incentive to perform well. If you can't get up for this game you are in the wrong place, so I hope you can get behind the team, and get us through to the next round.

One big win can change the course of a season. Now is the time to forget the past few weeks and move on.

Bradders

Canvey Island:

Welcome to tonight's FA Cup replay against Canvey Island.

We are all disappointed that this replay is necessary, but there is no point in moaning about it now. Canvey are a good side and we will need to be at our best tonight to go through. We had enough chances to win comfortably on Saturday but again we were not able to take advantage of these. There is nobody in particular to blame because we have all been guilty of missing chances at some point this year and I would be much more worried if we were not creating chances in the first place.

It seems that Youngy is taking a bit of stick for the late penalty decision on Saturday. But it is important to remember that without his save to keep us in the game when we were 1-0 down we would have lost anyway. So it is thanks to him that we even have the opportunity to still go through at all. Aside from that, I think we were very unlucky to concede a free kick leading up to the penalty decision, but there is nothing we can do about that now other than to put it right tonight.

This is our first home game for a while, so it gives me a chance to recap on the past few weeks. It was a good win against Lowestoft to get us through to this round of the FA Cup. Based on that performance I would not be surprised if they get promoted out of the Ryman League this year, which makes that win even better for us. On the flip side, the less said about the Boreham Wood game, the better. Our second half performance was nothing short of embarrassing, and the players realise this. But that can happen from time to time and I think it is best to forget about it and move on.

As usual, we rely on your support. I hope you can get behind us tonight and see us through to the next round. Bradders

Lowestoft Town:

Welcome to today's game against Lowestoft Town.

We all look forward to the FA Cup. Both players and supporters are always desperate to do well and make the most of the opportunity. There are always one or two non-league teams who make a name for themselves every year and we would love to bring that sort of exposure to Dartford. That said, this is going to be a tough game against a Lowestoft side that are currently sitting in second place in the Ryman Premier League. A performance is needed, and we all understand how important the FA Cup is to everybody involved.

Looking back at the Bromley game, I don't think it is unfair to say that we looked the better side for the majority of the afternoon. We created a number of chances and limited them to maybe three or four looks on goal. But unfortunately, we have again struggled to put the ball in the net when it matters which has been our main problem so far this season. I was probably the worst culprit last weekend. A few of my shots would have looked more at home on the back nine at Wentworth than on a football pitch. But you live and learn – for example I have learnt not to take shooting advice from Hayzie.....or Burnsy.....or Rooky.....or Danny Harris.

But I think we can all take confidence from that game. We are beginning to see what we are capable of as a side and things are starting to come together. With a little bit more composure in front of goal we will start to win games regularly. Let's hope that begins today.

Bradders.

Bromley:

Welcome to today's game against Bromley.

Bromley have had a flying start to the season, so I fully expect today's game to be the toughest test we have faced this year. They have been scoring goals regularly and putting points on the board, and that is what the game is all about. As we saw last year, a great start sets you up nicely for the rest of the season, so I am sure they are buzzing at the moment. But we also know that such a run of success will always come to an end, and if we can put in a performance today we are certainly capable of getting a result.

Looking back at the Thurrock game, we were all hugely disappointed to come away with just a point. We could easily (and probably should) have taken all three, but then again they could have done the same. Their goal was sloppy from our point of view and we wasted a number of chances to put the game to bed. I think we missed a real opportunity to put two back-to-back wins together, which is disappointing. But that said, it was our first point away from home this season, which is a positive.

I would also like to go on record and say that in no way do I blame Danny Harris for his last second miss against Thurrock. He has a big exam coming up in 2015 so his mind was understandably on other things. Rooky claims that he would have put it away, but none of us believe him. We are also going to be holding a whip round to see if we can buy Burnsby a goal. If anyone knows where there is one going cheap, I would appreciate it.

Lastly, I would like to pass on our congratulations to both Youngy and Shinny (and their respective partners) following the birth of their sons over the past couple of weeks. We wish them all the best.

Bradders.

Weston-Super-Mare:

Welcome to today's game against Weston-Super-Mare.

I think we can all agree it was a mixed bank holiday weekend. The much anticipated game against Ebbsfleet lived up to expectations with a great atmosphere and a decent game of football. Both teams had chances to win the game, so all in all I think a draw was probably a fair result. Obviously we would have liked to have taken all three points and given you guys something to cheer about, but come the end of the season I think a point against Ebbsfleet will be seen as a point gained rather than two lost.

Chelmsford was a bit of a different story. We had a lot of possession, but in all honesty didn't really cause them any problems. Both keepers didn't have much to do on the day, but Chelmsford showed that little bit more quality in front of goal than we did. I don't think we are getting the rub of the green at the moment, but we can't go through a whole season complaining about being unlucky. At some point we have to start making our own luck and putting the ball in the goal when it matters.

As a side note, I assure you that players don't like losing. I hate losing. The management team hates losing, and believe me I can understand supporters getting upset when we lose too. But I think things need to be put into perspective. This isn't the Ryman Premier League anymore and we are going to win games and we are going to lose games. Hopefully this will include more winning than losing but let's remember that we are only two weeks and six games into a 42 game season. There is a long way to go.

We will continue to work hard to turn things around, and your support is going to make the difference. Keep the faith.

Bradders.

Ebbsfleet United:

Welcome to today's game against Ebbsfleet United.

Now it seems that there is a little bit of rivalry between the two sets of supporters??? I don't know what gave me that impression. Perhaps the fact that the cheers following Ebbsfleet's relegation were louder than when we won the league last year, or the fact any Dartford fan would gladly spend a week in Dover just to avoid the place. In which case, it's great that we have the opportunity to renew the rivalry. It has been a while since the two teams have met and hopefully we can do what is needed to take three points. Ebbsfleet will be a strong side, but following Tuesday's win, we are full of confidence and looking forward to the challenge.

This is the start of a big week of games. Our home form is going to be important this season, so I hope everyone can get behind us.

Looking back on the Bishop's Stortford game, it was a great team performance and we thoroughly deserved to win. I think we looked strong in a 4-4-2 formation and a bit more balanced than in previous games. We didn't do a good enough job of supporting Burnsy from deep (myself included) in the opening few games, which meant we didn't really cause much of a threat going forward. But I think this changed on Tuesday with two men up front and wide men out in support.

A special mention to Youngy, who kept us in the game in opening 20 minutes with some great saves, including the penalty. Although they may have had more luck passing the penalty out wide and putting in a cross, as Youngy tends to flap at those. Then again, if they had anything like Hayesy's crossing ability it probably would have just gone out for a goal kick or over the stand and into the car park. It was also nice to see Rooky on the score sheet....for once.

Bradders.

Bishop's Stortford:

Welcome to tonight's game against Bishop's Stortford.

We are now a week into the new season, and if we are all honest, it has not been an ideal start. A single point from a possible nine is not great, although I think our performances, particularly in the Havant and Hampton games, deserved more. But this is a new team and a new league and I don't think it is a surprise to anyone that it may take a few games to gel and adjust.

We have shown glimpses of what we are capable of and in my opinion we could easily be sitting on six points rather than just one. It's going to be a case of cutting out some defensive mistakes and taking our chances in front of goal. We have already seen that one mistake, or one missed opportunity will cost us in this league, and we are going to have to learn our lessons quickly. But we have good players, with experience at this level of football and we will be working hard to turn things around.

On a lighter note, this is the first time I have had an opportunity to speak about the new squad. Tony spent the summer freeing up some space in the dressing room. The absence of Flan's gut and Taity's chin has allowed us all a bit more breathing room, although Youngy has clearly taken this as an excuse to put on some extra timber. We also seem to have signed half of Essex since last season, which would explain the lack of professionalism around the club at the moment. Goody obviously thinks a foul as the last man after five minutes is perfectly acceptable (cough cough, cost us!), Ollie has only mentioned his 250 caps for Chelmsford about 1000 times (it's a new season son, move on), and it seems Champs thinks a three game ban is a good excuse to show up late every week, with Charlie in tow.

In other news, Burnsy's goal drought continues (cough cough, right back) proving that even the Ryman League can get it wrong sometimes. But in all seriousness, there are some massive games coming up and it is going to take both players and supporters pulling in the same direction to kickstart our season.

There is a long long way to go, so I hope we can all stick together and get on to winning ways. Starting with tonight.
Bradders