

big ed's bit.....



Hello, good evening and welcome to Princes Park, home of The Darts.

Today we welcome, the players, officials and supporters, from across the estuary, Canvey Island. We hope they enjoy their short stay with us, and have an uneventful journey home.

Ah, the FA Cup. A programme editors nightmare. I was unable to attend the original tie on Saturday due to a house move, so you can guess that all was pretty good in my world at approximately 1650 on Saturday. Darts 2-1 up, and a Sunday recovering with my feet up, then news comes through that Canvey have a penalty. I sat with baited breath, staring at my PC. It was like awaiting the sound of the guillotine, sliding down the runners. Then it popped up "Goal 2-2". The air immediately turned blue in my back room, the neighbours slammed their windows shut, domestic pets bolted from the room, and small children ran crying from the area. I now had a holy quest to produce yet another literary masterpiece, in just over 24

hours. Sometimes you have the umph to knuckle down, and go for it. Other times you just have to hold your hands up and apologise. This, dear reader, is one of those times. Due to the very short printers deadline, tonights prog has a few features missing, for which I offer my wholehearted apologies. I do this for love, y'know!

Annywayyyyy. We find ourselves gathered here tonight, after Canvey netted the aforementioned "Fergie time" equaliser. Well done to them. We had fallen behind, and had then contrived to miss a whole raft of chances, before a Ryano penalty, and another goal from Captain Fantastic, put us firmly in the driving seat. However, the footballing gods that allowed us to win 18 away games in the league last season, decided to dump on us once again, leaving us still searching for that illusive away victory. I say illusive, because those of you that were at Borehamwood last weekend, and witnessed the 3-1 defeat, will know what I am talking about. We are now hovering around the edge of the relegation zone, a somewhat unusual position for us Darts, but lets not get to downhearted eh? After all, we could be Liverpool !!!

ANDY YOUNG

Congrats to Andy upon completion of his 100th first team start against Lowestoft two weeks ago. I'm sure the club will rustle up a little something to commemorate such a feat.

Keep Smilin'

Tony

the darts board

It feels good to be back and have that fantastic buzz in the air of excitement and anticipation of what this season holds in store for us.

Behind the scenes things have been progressing well, the marketing committee have continued to work on an agenda of events and marketing strategies for the forthcoming season and I am sure by now you have seen our sign written taxi driving around Dartford Town.

Sponsorship has continued to grow, with the introduction of the new patron club Diamond membership, we have attracted a few new members, this level of membership not only gives the sponsor 42 match tickets but also the chance to sponsor a match and have full company profile coverage on our website and in the matchday programme. They also have the opportunity of providing the match mascot, where they receive VIP attention and a chance to get a personally autographed programme from all the players. This membership also appeals to the golfers out there as it also includes a complimentary golf membership using the 9 hole golf course and hospitality in our new 'Champions bar', not forgetting the chance to select the Man of the match at their chosen sponsored game and meet the player.

Board advertising is proving to be strenuous, many local companies that have remained loyal sponsors and supporters are finding times difficult and have chose not to continue with their advertising, you will therefore see over the forthcoming months spaces available for rental, if you know of any businesses that are interested in advertising their company, please get them to contact the office.

One of the other projects I have been working on is producing a children's book all about Dartford Football Club with North West Kent college students and college lecturer Mr Neil Nixon. We have been working with volunteers of the club to produce a book for children between the ages of 7 to 10. Our aim is to have this published and to be able to visit the local schools to raise the profile of local football and to give children an insight to what Dartford Football Club is all about and hopefully this book can be used as an enjoyable educational tool. We are looking to visit the local schools and offer complimentary copies for the school libraries and have the book available on the internet for purchase.

I would also like to take this opportunity of welcoming some new sponsors to the Club, Riverford Organic Veg, our First Team Tracksuit & Kitbag Sponsor, please look out for their flyers about the excellent service they offer as the club benefits from every sale made from Dartford Football Club, Enserve Services Limited, Dartford, Mr Jon Lord who is assisting the club with carpet cleaning services and Tower Printing who are now looking after our printing requirements and needs.

All in all a very exciting time for us as we progress through the steps of the football hierarchy, for the club administratively, this has also involved a lot more organisation and paperwork and would like to thank all those involved, including Clare Weeks, Peter Martin, turnstile operatives, Steve Irving and Paul Davey.

Onwards and upwards

Nicola Collett
General Manager

from the captains table.....

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 Borehamwood 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



tony burmans' diary

I would like to welcome the players and officials from Canvey Island FC, for tonight's FA cup replay at Princes Park

Last Saturday i felt the players performance was very good. The attitude for the game was spot on, and although we were one down at half time, we created enough chances to be three or four goals up.

In the second half we converted a couple of those chances to go two one up, and take the lead.

In my opinion the game should have been finished, but this is the FA cup and strange things happen in this competition. I don't like blaming referees, but i felt the ref got decisions wrong in injury time on Saturday, which forced tonight's replay.

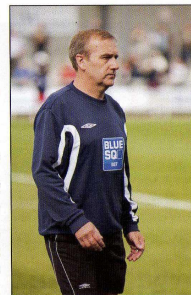
So we move on, and like Saturday we will give Canvey the utmost respect. They will come and have a right go at us, but we have to be patient, professional, and believe in ourselves.

At the moment we are creating chances, and that will not change. Yes we have had trouble converting those chances, but one thing is for sure, that will change. I hope that happens tonight. I have a lot of belief in my players because things can change so quickly in football, and that's why i will give them my backing.

We will be approaching tonight's game with a very positive attitude, and I hope you help as much as you can, to get behind the players and be patient and positive with us.

Thanks for your support

Tony



BUY A BRICK

APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM SHOP

Be part of Princes Park
get your name in stone for

£35.00

Your chance to net a prize

Raffle Tickets - Golden Goal - Scratch Cards

Please buy a ticket and help support your club