

# Editorial 13<sup>th</sup> November 2010

## big ed's bit.....

Hello, Good afternoon and welcome to Princes Park, home of The Darts.

Today we welcome everyone connected with Dorchester Town, for this Blue Square South clash.. We hope they enjoy their brief stay with us, and have a safe journey home.

Well, that's more like it huh? After the trials and tribulations of our start to Blue Square South life, our season at last lifted off this week. An absolutely stonking performance against League Two side Port Vale, went cruelly unrewarded when Micky Adams boys scrambled a wholly undeserved equaliser 6 minutes from time. It says a lot, about the day that it felt like a defeat, rather than the draw that any of us would have taken pre kick off. The Vale gaffer was very complimentary in his match assessments, saying that Darts were far and away the better side, and they really got out of jail with their equaliser. So we go again on Tuesday, at Vale Park. We have been allocated the entire visiting end which holds 4500 !!! Early reports suggest that approximately 250 Darts will be travelling up, so about 20 seats each then ! That should be OK for Deano anyways. Might be an idea for everyone to take a cardboard cut out or blow up doll along, make it look a little better. If by any chance we do prevail at The Vale, we will be hosting Accrington Stanley (Who are they?) in Round two. Great to see the debut of "Flagzilla" last week, and again at Dover. This mother of all flags measure 12 x 25 ft !! Well done Kev for arranging the construction project.

Moving onto Dover on Tuesday, and how sweet was that!! The conquerors of 'Mighty' Gillingham humbled only three days later in their own back yard. A corner from Ryano that completely deceived the home keeper gave us the lead. The second half produced the predictable backlash from The French, but our magnificent defence stood firm. Andy Young was truly awesome, saving Goldenboy Birchalls penalty with ease. Then the icing on the cake as we snatched a second from a swift counter attack, tucked away by OB. Cue wild celebrations on the terraces, and a very enjoyable last few minutes. Loved the "Is there a fire drill?" chant at the departing Dover fans as the FT whistle approached. Well done everyone that braved the downpour to travel.

### COMMUNITY TEAM

Today's community team are from Horton Kirby Juniors. We hope enjoy their day at Princes Park. Samuel Smith, Alex Spencer, Kian Pedley, Tyrone Bellgrave, Cody Hull, Aaron West, Charlie Flewin, Kaiya Zeki, Tom Saunders, Jamie Crawley, Charlie Watley, Archie Chenery, Daniel Howlett, Luke Rose, Rowan Pragnell, Connor George, Noah Enticknap, Dylan Gunnery, Jayden Boulton, Ronnie Toomey, Bailey Markham, Joe Barnard.

### COACH TRAVEL TO PORT VALE

Arrangements are being made to accommodate any supporters who wish to travel to Port Vale by coach from Princes Park. Coaches will depart at 14:00 and the cost will be £18 for adults and £12 for juniors (age to be confirmed). Anyone wishing to travel on the coaches should book by sending an e-mail to [dfcawaytravel@aol.com](mailto:dfcawaytravel@aol.com), giving a contact number and the names of those they are booking for (eg steve +3 etc will not be acceptable). We will also be taking bookings at the Dorchester match on Saturday in the club bar from midday until 14:45, at half time in the Supporters Association Pod and in the club bar after the match until 18:00. Please note payment for all bookings must be paid to me, Dave Hunter on Saturday to guarantee your seat, this includes those who have already booked via Gooner and those who booked with me at the Dover match.. arrangements will be made for those who are unable to make these times.

Please do not telephone the club to make bookings or for booking enquiries

Further updates, arrangements and contact details will appear on the DFC website

### REARRANGED GAMES

The Staines Town game, postponed from last Saturday has been provisionally re arranged for Tuesday 14th December KO 1945.

Keep Smilin'

Tony

## my matchday

### who does what at dfc no 6 - groundstaff

For those who dont know me, my name is Andy Gibbins and I am the Head Groundsperson at Princes Park, I work for ASK Landscape Solutions reporting to Nick Egan but work very closely with the Stadium management team, Nic Collett, Bill Archer and David Skinner.

I cant believe it's been a year that I first stepped onto the pitch, my job was to solely improve and transform the pitch. As you are all aware the pitch was suffering from some serious issues, mainly the drainage and I knew that I had a tough job to rectify this problem.

We battled through the winter of 2009, relying on the bow drying removing water system, kindly purchased by the fans and also my job was made easier by numerous volunteers giving their time to rectify the repeated flooding issues on the pitch. It was agreed around April 2010 that emergency drainage work needed to be implemented, with a special workforce brought in from abroad, pitch inspections, soil samples, flow rates and investigations as to what the best remedy was for the pitch all began to commence.

Various methods were trailed and it was concluded that the best solution to our problem was the deep trench method, which meant bringing specialist equipment in, but happy to report that as is evident this has been a great success and made my life a lot more enjoyable.



I hope you feel like I do and can see the benefits and the vast improvement of the quality of the pitch that will only get better and better as time goes by, bearing in mind that the scare tissue from the procedure will take anywhere upto two years for this to effectively blend in to the pitch. The continued investment from the Club can only benefit the pitch, the players and groundsteam and ensure that the playing surface is at it's best for the future. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those dedicated fans who have given much time in assisting me over the past year and hope that the relationship between fan and the groundsteam can continue into the future.

If anyone has an interest into the pitch or how we keep the pitch in shape, feel free to contact me and I will be more than happy to discuss this with you or invite you to spend some time with the groundsteam.

the all seeing eye.....



### Stadiums gone, but not forgotten. No. 3 – Redheugh Park Gateshead



**Redheugh Park** (pronounced red-yoof), a football stadium in Gateshead, England, was built in 1930 when South Shields FC moved to Gateshead from Horsley Hill and became Gateshead AFC. It was their home for more than 40 years.

The stadium offered terracing all round. The Main Stand was a two-thirds pitch length seated stand (purchased from a greyhound stadium in Carlisle) with covered standing extensions added on either side. Opposite the Main Stand was a large covered terrace that ran the full length of the ground. The North end of the ground had a small covered terrace, whilst the opposite Ropery Road (South) End was a small

uncovered terrace (That latterly included a large totaliser scoreboard introduced with the greyhound racing).

In 1930 Gateshead Council set about locating a suitable site for Gateshead AFC to be based. Sites at Low Fell and Sheriff Hill were considered, but were deemed too far out of town. The chosen location was in The Teams area of Gateshead, a worked out clay pit (known as Johnsons Clay Hole) edged by Ropery Road and Derwentwater Road. The holes, tunnels and craters on the site were filled by lorries full of the town's refuse.



Redheugh Park was officially opened by Mr. Sutcliffe, the Football League's then Vice-President on August 30, 1930 when Gateshead AFC played their first ever Football League game winning 2-1 against Doncaster Rovers in front of 15,545 spectators. Greyhound racing at Redheugh Park commenced in 1937, which brought a boost to the Football Clubs financial status and subsequently eased the burden for the upkeep of the stadium. However the inclusion of the Greyhound track reduced the size of the playing area, the terracing at either end of the ground and subsequently the capacity. With the loss of Football League status in 1960 and the Football Club's subsequent continual slide down the leagues, a further heavy blow was dealt with the cessation of greyhound racing at the stadium in 1966. This put both Redheugh Park and Gateshead AFC in serious financial troubles. Other sources of income were investigated, this included allowing showmen to have a small fair on the car park, allowing advertising to be placed on the wall facing Askew Road (permission was refused) and even converting the refreshment bar into a transport cafe to catch passing trade. In 1967 Gateshead AFC made a vain attempt to fill the void the Greyhound racing had left by staging Speedway racing at the Stadium. By the early 1970s Redheugh Park had become run down, this, combined with a fire in the 1971/72 season, saw Gateshead AFC move to the Gateshead Youth Stadium (Now known as The Gateshead International

Stadium). However the new venue proved no easier on the finances of the club, bringing the liquidation of Gateshead AFC in late August 1973. 1972 saw Redheugh Park fare no better, a year after the Football Club moved out the ground was in a derelict condition. Weed infested with crumbling terraces and dilapidated stands it was demolished. For nearly twenty years the outlines of Redheugh Park could be made out with the terraces appearing as grass humps on the land. The area was completely leveled for the 1990 Gateshead Garden Festival and used as a car park. A few years later saw football return to the area in the shape of the Pitz 5-a-side soccer centre which was renamed Power League which is still in place today.

There were discussions about the return of Gateshead F.C. to Redheugh Park. It was one of the prime choices for the relocation of the club due to the unsuitability of the International Stadium for football. The main problems with the current ground being the distance between the pitch and stands because of the running track, also the lack of money making opportunities available to the club both on match days and in-between. However the Gateshead FC Chairman has since stated that the club will not be moving back to Redheugh Park. It is believed the main reason behind this decision is the Teams area is too far from Gateshead town centre where the club wishes to be.

## from the captains table.....

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.*



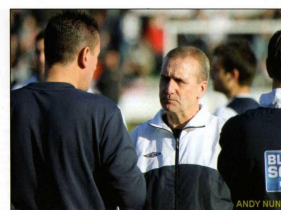
## Your chance to net a prize

Raffle Tickets - Golden Goal - Scratch Cards

Please buy a ticket and help support your club

## tony burman's diary .....

What you saw last Saturday is what I intend to make the future of this football club. I'm a little bit disappointed with the result, because, and make no mistake, we had a hell of a chance to take down one of the top league two sides. Overall I'm a very happy man, to be fair. The performance was the best one we've put on all season. I'm disappointed because I'd like it to be like that every week.



No disrespect to Port Vale but we were by far the better side and if we had got the second goal it would have been over.

I'm glad that we went to see them on Tuesday night because we did have a game plan - we spoke to the players on Thursday about what we thought they should do and they did it perfectly really, I was really pleased for them.

I think they deserved more - I'm pleased we're in the hat but really we should have won the game.

**No disrespect to Port Vale but we were by far the better side and if we had got the second goal it would have been over.**

I was so very proud of my players, but we have to try to reproduce this form in the league. We are in a false position in the table. Its about confidence, its about belief. There was signs during the win at Dover on Tuesday, that things are starting to gel. I was again very happy with the performance. Dover are flying high, and had just easily defeated Gillingham in the cup. So to go to their place and come away with a 2-0 victory was, to me, a bit special.

Today we have to try to continue our recent improvement against Dorchester Town. It wont be easy, but its so very important to keep the confidence high before our trip to the Potteries on Tuesday.

Enjoy the game.

*Tony*



the all seeing eye.....



## Reeling in the Years

### Wessex or Bust

As this week's nostalgia piece involves today's visitors Dorchester Town I have to admit a huge personal fondness for this part of the country. Having read the vast majority of the works of Thomas Hardy and the descriptions of his birthplace it always brings the area so much more to life every time I visit. Fortunately most of our matches against Dorchester have been a lot more cheerful than a Hardy novel (but then what isn't) and my memories are colourful and varied.

The first time I travelled to Dorset would have been in the 1980's when the journey was a lot longer and arduous. It was the final game of a season that would see Dorchester Town as Champions but first of all they had to take the final step and see off the Darts. This they did without really breaking sweat as Dartford's season had long been over, but what stood out for me was the lack of celebration. I had been used to seeing Championship celebrations last amongst Dartford supporters for days with the alcohol flowing for most of that time. But on this occasion all that happened was that a couple of supporters shook hands, said well done and see you next season. Within half an hour the only people in the bar were from Dartford. Very strange

The next time we visited was a very different occasion when we won 5-1 on New Years Eve courtesy of a Steve Connor hat trick and descended into Weymouth for an extremely debauched evening of revelry (this has been outlined in a previous programme, so I will spare you any further details).

Unfortunately Dorchester then decided to move down the road away from the quaint old ground to a large concrete block that it seemed was an extension of the adjacent supermarket. Before anybody from Dorchester gets upset about this description I have to say it is a perfectly decent ground with only two important omissions. Firstly, what is it with the turnstiles because I cannot believe that everyone in Dorchester is svelte of figure? Legend has it that supporters have been trapped for days in the barrier and I personally am not looking forward to having to ask for the gate to be opened (maybe a diet will help).

The other thing that I remember on my first visit was a lack of a club bar for supporter's. Who on earth builds a ground without a social club? If I remember right harassed official had to accommodate thirsty Dartford Supporters in the tiny Directors bar. Hopefully as this was a few years back and things have now changed because come January Dartford supporters will once again be descending on Wessex.

*Big John*

## princes park stadium



### 'Princes Park'

#### Welcome to your stadium

Our Champions bar is situated on the lower floor open to the public weekdays from 11.30am daily  
The upper floors are no longer open to the public during the week as they are available for private hire for functions only

Our new daily menu has been introduced  
Sample of the menu include:

A selection of Crudités £ 1.20  
Fresh assorted melon £ 1.00  
Dish of Pesto Pasta £ 1.50  
Smoked salmon & fresh bread roll £ 2.50  
Ploughmans & crusty roll £ 3.00  
Chocolate Cake with strawberries £ 2.00

#### Sky sports is always on

Showing all live matches from the Premiership  
(we subscribe to all the main sports channels, including ESPN)

#### Pool Table

Please contact club if you are interested in joining

#### Table Football

Available on match days and private hire

#### 3G Community Pitch

#### 9 Hole Golf Course

#### 2 Darts Boards

Available weekends only

#### Function suites and meeting rooms are available for private hire

Please ask a member of staff for details  
For all your catering needs please telephone 01322 299993

[www.princespark.net](http://www.princespark.net)

For all your catering and function needs both at Princes Park and anywhere in the South East