

big ed's bit.....



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

Today marks a big moment in Darts history. After eighteen long years, we are finally back where we were before the events of '92. It has taken a very long time for us to regain our rightful position, back among the clubs at the second highest level of Non league football, but here we are. Today we make our debut in the world of the Blue Square. How good does that feel? We hope to be seen as a welcome addition to the Blue Square Family, and with our stadium, facilities and support, I'm sure this will be the case! We are not here to just make up the numbers however, and whilst not underestimating the size of

the step up that we have made, we will be "going for it"!

Today, if the bookies are to be believed, we could not face a sterner baptism. The title favourites Havant & Waterlooville, are today's visitors. We welcome all associated with 'The Hawks', and hope they enjoy their first visit to our home.

We rounded off the pre season friendly schedule with a 1-0 victory at Ryman Premier favourites Tonbridge Angels last Saturday, Tom Bonner celebrated signing for The Darts with his third strike of pre season. Last Tuesday we drew 2-2 with a youthful Leyton Orient side, Carl Rook and Danny Harris, finding the target that night.

Following on from today's game, we are on the road twice. Hampton & Richmond Borough are first up on Tuesday, and then on Saturday we travel down the M3 to deepest, darkest Hampshire, to take on Farnborough. Supporters Coaches will be available for both journeys, and you can see Paul in the bar, to reserve your seat.

So..... The season starts here, nine months of ups and downs. It's good to be back. Bring it on ! COYD.

TODAY'S COMMUNITY TEAM

Today's Community team is Dartford FC under eights players are: James Cunningham, Jamie Nickline, Harvey Goymer, George Beckingsale, Ty Dilley, Dillon Bihal, Lexi Bassant, Darragh Connelly, Tommy Collins, Tommy White'
Manager: Luke Goymer

PARKING

Please note that we are expecting larger attendances at PP this season, and the car park will be under severe pressure. Please make sure that, when you park, that your vehicle is positioned between the marked white lines on the wooden bleachers. Ta.

BINGO

Would you be interested in participating in social bingo evenings? These would be held monthly on an alternative Sunday evening to the monthly quiz. Commencing later this year. DFCSA would welcome your feedback. Please contact Ron or Dave in the club shop.

OBITUARIES

The club was very saddened to learn of the passing of two loyal supporters during the summer. Stephen Bordley passed away after a short illness in early July. His family published a message of thanks to well wishers in the Orient programme. Stephen was bid farewell , in his 'PUREDFC' shirt last week at Bluebell Hill Crematorium.

We also received this from the Barham family;

"We are very sad to announce that at the end of last season Dartford FC lost one of their life long supporters, Frank Barham 76, he passed away suddenly at home on the 21st April 2010. Frank was born and bred a Dartfordian and supported the Darts from an early age, through thick & thin! Frank did manage to make it to the Aveley game to see the Darts awarded the trophy as Champions of Ryman League Premier, so he passed away a happy man.

Frank was a family man and leaves behind his wife Lesly, daughter Jane, sons Stephen, Iain and Mark and many grandchildren. Iain and Mark carry on their dad's support of the Darts and are on the terraces with their families most of the season."

We will be having a minute's applause for Stephen and Frank before today's game vs Havant & Waterlooville. Representatives from both families will be present, and would appreciate your support.
Thank you.

Keep Smilin'
Tony

the darts board...

The Board are very pleased to announce that Bob Blair has become a new Director of The Club.

I have known Bob and his General Manager Robby Gomm for many years and they have sponsored The Club for several years, recently acting as Project Managers on the New Bar and Club Shop.

As the owner of The Lifecare Centre he employs several Tradesmen and his position on The Board will be to supervise any maintenance and repairs that need to be done around The Stadium - I'm sure he will prove a great asset to The Club.

Bill Archer

tony burmans diary.....

I would like to welcome the players and staff from Havant and Waterlooville FC for our first game in the Blue Square Bet South Division. It has been a very hectic summer, with comings and goings in terms of playing staff. We have had to make some real tough decisions regarding players who, in previous seasons have been excellent for this football club, and last year in particular helped us win the Ryman Premier League Championship. I would like to wish all the players that have left the club all the very best in the future.

When players leave, a new crop of players are signed. We believe that the new players that have signed will improve, and strengthen our squad for the coming season. I would like to welcome Joe Bruce, Paul Goodacre, Tom Champion, Charlie Sheringham, Tom Bonner and Ollie Berquez to the football club.

I have been pleased with the pre-season preparation, and the levels of fitness that the players have shown, during these games and training sessions, but there is nothing like getting down to business, and starting a new season where points are up for grabs. We will be going into a new venture with some big clubs, and very good teams, starting with today's opponents, who are one of the bookies favourites to win the league.

The first ten games in any season are very important, and six of those games are in the next two weeks, where will be facing another three of the fancied teams. We realise that things will be tough, but I have to say, that we are all really looking forward to the start of a new season, and the challenge that lies ahead.

I hope you all enjoy today's game, and continue to give the club and the players your fantastic support.

Thanks for your support,

Tony

