

big ed's bit.....



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

Today we start on the road to Wembley and we welcome, for the first time to Princes Park, the players, officials and I'm sure numerous supporters, from Lowestoft Town. Town are currently enjoying a bit of a purple patch in their history. Two consecutive promotions, have seen them leap from the Eastern Counties league, to the top six of the Ryman Premier. Today's test will be a stern one, of that I am sure.

Well, I gather there was a bit of a cracking game here last Saturday. I say, I gather, because I am writing this from a villa somewhere on the Algarve, shortly before I shoot off to do battle on the carefully manicured fairways of Boavista, so was unfortunately absent on the day of the match. I must apologise for the fact that not all the usual articles are as up to date as they would normally be, but laptop probs decree so.

Another late equaliser, in reply to Bromleys also late goal, saw our unbeaten home record maintained. One of only four still remaining I hasten to add. League leaders Bromley had taken a rather undeserved, fortuitous lead, shortly before half time, before yet another penalty for us saw Ryan Hayes power the spot kick home. Its remarkable that last season, it wasn't until about February/March time that we were awarded a penalty, but this season I think its already four and counting! Elliot Bradbrooks late show apparently saw assistant manager Paul Sawyer, doing a 'Mourinho' down the touch time. Shame I missed that !!!

ORCHARD THEATRE

We have teamed up with the Orchard Theatre Dartford and have a fantastic new ticket offer available for Darts fans, for the Best of British Variety Tour 2010.

The irrepressible Christopher Biggins will host this fantastic night of great British Entertainment featuring Paul Daniels and The Krankies, return to the tour by popular demand, along with Irish singer Dana, The Grumbleweeds and, for the first time as a solo act, one half of one of the most famous comedy double acts since comedy began, Syd Little of Little & Large.

Tickets normally cost £27.50 but we are offering BEST AVAILABLE SEATS for just £10.00 per ticket!

To claim this fantastic ticket offer please call the Ticket Office on 01322 22000 and quote 'Variety offer'.

Offer cannot be claimed against tickets already purchased or in conjunction with any other concessions or discount. Subject to availability and restrictions.

Keep Smilin'

Tony

my matchday

who does what, at dfc

No.3 - DFC Supporters' Association by Mick How.

Following on from previous articles on 'Who does what at DFC', it was suggested that I highlight some of my life and times' in support of our great Dartford Football Club. Indeed, all the DFCSA committee members are aware of and fulfil their individual volunteering roles - including fundraising - on matchdays and at other times, as needed. I have, for some time now, been involved in the running and co-ordination of the Junior Darts Membership for Five to Thirteen year olds. As you may be aware, this is a scheme whereby for £30.00 (2010/11 season), members have their own JDMembership cards to access all DFC Home League games throughout the year, once being a JDMascot, receiving a souvenir photo with players and an Autographed Birthday Card during that year. For an additional £10.00 only, the JDMember can also sponsor a favourite player, with the name next to that player's photo, in the matchday bar. For details, please visit Club Shop.

Coming back to matchday Mascots therefore, JDMascots are usually identified roughly in order of their received Applications for that season. However, some special requests may be considered where possible to accommodate Birthdays, for instance. At least a week ahead of that match programme, I usually contact the parents of the chosen JDMascots to receive brief profiles for the programme Editor. Occasionally, they may not be available or even have to postpone their turn to be a JDMascot, perhaps due to illness. Hence, on rare occasions, you may not see the Mascot, as per programme profile. You may also notice that there usually are other Mascots, as selected from the DFC Patrons' Club. As arranged, they, along with the JDMascots would meet me in the PP Reception Foyer at 2.00 pm / 7.00 pm (Depending on Kick Off time). A Mascot ball or two would be ready, while all Mascots introduce themselves to each other. I explain how they are going to proceed, including what to expect (Some players may be in their underpants!), Do's and Don'ts (e.g. to avoid Goalmouths and being too close to players & officials warming up!) We then go through the Treatment room, with the all - action Dave Phillips and his Physio team, using all that smelly massage Balm... We are now moving on,

passing the showers / WC and changing rooms, taking great care not to touch or fall over players' belongings. We notice all the numbered Home Shirts hanging on the walls, ready for Kick - Off. Soon, we see the opposition, officials and DFC manager / coaches' rooms. We stop at the Groundsmen's room to admire the rather wide Lawn Mower and other equipment. Next, we glance at the Trolley & equipment for any injuries before reaching the awesome PP home dug - outs and pitch for a kick - about. The manager will soon select 2-3 players for a JDMascot photo before the players go in. Ahead of Kick - Off, Mascots proudly hear their names on the P.A system and line up to walk out with the teams, in front of the Darts' Captain. A final Patrons' club Mascot photo, with officials and captains, is done at the centre. The Mascots swiftly retire to watch the game in the safe company of their parents, having hopefully enjoyed their quality Mascot time, with an autographed - programme in hand.

Having ensured the balls' safe return, I usually take a breather and watch the 1st half, heading towards the club shop just before half - time to have Mascots photos printed and made ready for collection. I sometimes miss the odd goal or two at the start of the 2nd half, in so doing. (I don't mind... as long as we are winning...)

Having cheered on the Darts and at the end of the match, I return to the club shop for any new Applications and other queries, before I make my way to the Champions' bar for the Man of the Match presentation photo shoot. The photo is printed in the club shop, for the M.O.M player to keep for posterity (and to show his Grand Children...)

The final tasks consist of ensuring that the printer and camera are ready for the next occasion and safely put away.

I can now enjoy a pint or two in the bar's good company, depending on whether my long - suffering better half quickly needs me home or away??? Oh Dear, in a few days, I'll need to pick, call for the next JDMascots, forwarding details to programme Editor Tony (In time for his next holiday break...), send Birthday cards and perhaps issue new memberships cards, while getting ready for queries and the next DFCSA Committee meeting. I soon get on my bike...

from the captains table.....

Welcome to today's game against Lowestoft Town.

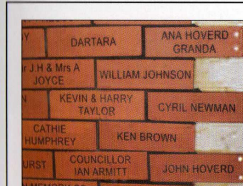
We all look forward to the FA Cup. Both players and supporters are always desperate to do well and make the most of the opportunity. There are always one or two non-league teams who make a name for themselves every year and we would love to bring that sort of exposure to Dartford. That said, this is 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.



BUY A BRICK

APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM SHOP

Be part of Princes Park
get your name in stone for

£35.00

tony burmans' diary

I would like to welcome the players and officials from Lowestoft Town FC for today's FA cup tie at Princes Park.

The FA cup is a fantastic competition especially for non league clubs. The financial rewards for the clubs, publicity and media attention for supporters and players is the main reasons for trying to stay in the competition as long as possible.

We are now nine league games into the new season and to be honest I am a little disappointed with our points tally so far. I feel the players have worked hard and played very well at times but have just been unfortunate not to have accumulated more points than we have deserved. I have no doubt in my mind from what I have seen of the league so far we should not be concerned about the opposition. We have improved the squad from last season and I feel we should concentrate on what we do to try and win three points. We have a very good squad one that I believe in, yes it has taken a little longer to gel, but the positive signs are there we are close to being very good, and as the saying goes its not a sprint its a marathon.

I hope we all enjoy today's match and work hard to get the result we want

Thanks for your support

Tony



Your chance to net a prize

Raffle Tickets - Golden Goal - Scratch Cards

Please buy a ticket and help support your club

we've met before.....

When asked to fill in for Big John in recalling past games between ourselves and our visitors today, I had only one recollection of a past encounter and that was a pre-season friendly on Saturday, August 6th, 2005.

Season 2005-2006 was rather special as the aire of excitement over the lead up to the completion of Princes Park, saw the Darts finishing its stay at Stonebridge Road in 7th place in the Southern League, Division One East. It was also the season that saw the arrival of David Martin from Slade Green, to join his buddy Ryan Hayes and for the pair to hit 23 goals between them that season.

The pre-season results that year did suggest that we were set fair for a reasonably entertaining season-except that was for our weekend away trip to Lowestoft. A certain John Whitehouse was between the sticks that day but despite his best efforts failed to save our blushes on a day when we couldn't contain the Trawlerboys and returned home with a 5-0 defeat, somewhat denting our pre-season preparation.

This defeat didn't, however, damage the enjoyment of our merry band of regular pre-season travellers, including Dave Skinner, Gary Clark, John Hall and myself. Our usual card school was joined by a certain Scottish wedding guest, rather well oiled on whisky and Im-Bru, who very kindly contributed a substantial amount of cash towards our visit to 'probably the best curry house in East Anglia'.

A profitable weekend off the field if not so successful on it. Lets hope we can make amends today with victory in the FA Cup.

Have a good day

Steve Irving



Pop in and have a look around
We are open on match days from 1.00 pm

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

As from September a 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

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

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Please contact club if you are interested in joining

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3G Community Pitch

9 Hole Golf Course

2 Darts Boards

Available weekends only

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Please ask a member of staff for details

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