# Newsletter Summer 2016.

## Chairman’s Thoughts

Welcome to the first issue of a quarterly newsletter for everyone associated with our club. We want to keep everyone abreast of events, plans and what’s going on generally in our busy community. Sorry for the length of it, but our managers are clearly an excitable bunch.

We’re a funny lot at Bath City Youth. All that frustration, perspiration and selfless endeavor and yet we rarely stop to consider what we have achieved or indeed why we are doing it at all. Coaching is extremely difficult to do, even for the most earnest of coaches. Evaluating it is perhaps even more problematic. So how do we know how well we’re doing at it? This is obviously complex but I would propose we take an extremely long term view of things. Let’s call it the Twenty Year Rule:

Coach as though your players will evaluate you not at the end of a match nor a season, but twenty years later

I believe our job is to offer the experiences; moral compass; and understanding of commitment, friendship, humility and accomplishment that we instill at a young age and which only truly flourish twenty years later. When all the trophies and medals have been lost or destroyed, our players will then have something much richer to sustain them. As managers, assistants, volunteers and parents reflect on the season past and maybe plan for the season to come, it would be great if they could bear the Twenty Year Rule in mind. Bon chance and have fun, an awful lot of it. If the club’s Management Committee can help you in any way, let us know and we’ll do our best.

Finally, I would like to thank seven great servants to our club who will be hanging up their boots, well for now until boredom gets the better of them – just look at PRS! Shane Davis who ran the u17s last year and has been with his squad since they were small; Nick Prescott and Martin Williams who ran last year’s u16s and again have been with their boys since they were u7s; Neil Dando who was instrumental in setting up our fantastic girls football group and has been Head of Girls Football at Bath City Youth for the last few years; Nick Swallow who looked after our u12s last year and has also invested half a dozen years in the club; Simon Millar who has been running an U11s squad; and finally Patrick Taylor Smith our long-suffering Welfare Officer who has worked tirelessly with all our squads over many years and has been instrumental in us obtaining and then improving our Charter Status. Gentlemen, our community is indebted. See you on the touchline soon.

Thanks, Ed

## Bath City Youth News

The Managers offered their reflections on the season past and their plans for the next one.

### Under 6s – Andrew McPhee

### This is the second year BCYFC has begun recruitment at U6 - and there's no shortage of young players champing at the bit to get involved. We have a great squad whose nucleus originally came mainly from the Paragon School, but is supplemented now with players from Combe Down and several other primary schools. As they go into U7 and the first full season of friendlies, we'll look to grow the squad from 12 to about 20. The key thing has been 'learning to learn' getting the players used to the disciplines involved in mastering technique, while keeping if FUN. We finished the year with a couple of friendly matches and festival entries. The first friendly we played was an eye-opener; we played a team that had been playing matches all season and were incredibly well drilled. Having conceded about 10 goals we finished the match with a goal ourselves just before the whistle blew(!). One of our players said "does that mean we won". Of course it does!

### Under 7s – Ian Kemmery

The Bath City U7 Squad had a very successful season with over 20 players training each week and have all been involved playing matches against local teams from Bath and Bristol.

Next season we will be entering one team in the HML and another into the Mid Wilts League with the intention to ensure all players get an opportunity to play match football.

They are a very talented group and it is going to be a lot of fun watching them develop over the next few years.

### Under 8s – Dave Merritt

The Under 8 squad continued to grow through the season, and we now have 17 players (boys and girls), with several other children looking to come along to taster sessions in September. Last season was a great success, starting with a competitive showing in the Midsomer Norton League Autumn Cup, followed by league matches with a number of clubs who have become firm friends over the course of the season.

The season ended with all players getting to attend Festivals of Football at Wells, Castle Combe and our own Festival in May.

All in all, this season has seen a lot of goals, skills and fantastic last-ditch tackles .... but most importantly seen lots of team work, smiles and camaraderie that we look forward to taking into the 2016/2017 season.

### Under 9s – Mark Andrews

This season has been marked by a significant shift in how the children are playing. They have progressed from individual players to team players who trust each other. They have been enjoying some fantastic achievements as a result.

As well playing entertaining matches, the squad won tournaments at Frome and Castle Combe and reached the semi-finals at the Bath Arsenal and Corsham tournaments.

The squad has been no stranger to some footballing dramas either having lost on penalties twice to FCBath. It looks like the team is developing a healthy local rivalry!

Away from the matches, the coaching team have been focusing on developing a squad ethos based on having fun, learning and playing together as a team. The parents have been hugely supportive and the team’s approach has also been praised by other teams including Freshford and Chippenham.

As the season has progressed there has been increasing interest in joining the squad. The good news is that we now have a new coach (Dan Hine and Paul Gray) signed up to manage our 15 new starters. We now have 40 children across two squads, which we think is an amazing achievement.

And we are delighted to have ongoing support from squad sponsor Lighthouse Advisors. This support means we can provide more equipment for the squad in the coming year. We are really looking forward to the new season.

### Under 10s – Gerry Pace

Our season started slowly and we had some tough games but our boys battled on and we finished 8th in the league. We also finished runners up in the Frome tournament after losing on the dreaded penalties. Looking forward to next season with high hopes for our boys. FORZA BATH CITY!!

### Under 10s – Lee Morris

The U10s completed a very successful season on the pitch by reaching all 3 finals of the HML Div 1 mini competition season, unfortunately losing all 3 narrowly. The progress of the boys has been most noticeable under the superb coaching of Dan Hine who is sadly leaving us this season for a career in London. We wish him all the best and look forward to seeing him at the odd match in the future when he comes back from the big smoke!

This season sees us make the transition to the 11 a side format and for that reason, we have decided to step down into Div 2 so that we can gradually blood the lads into this new style without the fear factor kicking in. I am sure that on our day we will continue to hold our own against the best sides out there as these are a very talented bunch of youngsters, with 3 of them nailing down places in the Bath and Wilts squad and 1 in the Cardiff Emerging Talent Centre. As most sides will testify to, we are probably the best passing side in the league and this is mainly down to the excellent 3G training surface at Odd Down. Unfortunately, this does not prepare you so well for a January affair in the mud at the wrong end of Bristol.

Looking forward to this season, we are about to start a 2nd squad in the MSN league as our numbers grow towards the capped squad size of 30. Very much looking forward to seeing the continued development, particularly with the introduction of the offside, 1 game format that should prove to be very interesting for both players and spectators alike.

### Under 11s – Dave Clemmit / Ian Kemmery

U11's MSN team

On the pitch we had a great season and saw the squad gel into a strong and creative unit, starting in Division 2, they were rewarded with promotion after a series of positive results.

Off the pitch Matt Rusling did a fantastic job working with the team and has committed to working with Mark, Catherine and the boys again next year.

Next year the emphasis will remain on having fun and enjoying playing football so will be in Div 2 for MSN. We always are looking for new players who want to come along and be part of a friendly squad.

U11's HML team

On the pitch we saw a positive transition to 9 a side with the boys playing in two positions in most games whilst still holding their own against some of the best teams in the area. The Spring tour was great fun and good bonding for all and they are enjoying the Summer tournaments so far winning 3 out of 3 and being undefeated in 22 matches.

Off the pitch the boys really liked the guest coach programme who gave them new skills but also worked hard with Ed and Jon on Friday nights. 6 of the squad were selected for BWB which is a testament to their commitment and personal development. Ian provides specialist goalie coaching as well.

Next season we are looking forward to the challenge of taking part in AYL Div 1. We have added to the squad further and will look to do another tour and keep our ethos of all players being comrades on the pitch and good friends off it.

### Under 12s – Nick Swallow

The teams were fantastic this year as they were newly promoted from last year into the crème de la crème of the Midsomer Norton league and finished a very respectable 5th only behind selective teams in the division and for an inclusive club this was a great effort. Most pleasing was the way the team gelled as a unit and passed and moved the ball in every position no matter who was there. They were not frightened to lose the ball or lose a game and gave everything they had against some really good sides. They just went out to play football to the best of their ability which was great and did so as friends which was even better! Parents were very supportive of all the team and other teams we played against which was also really pleasing.

Winning our own tournament was fantastic and with regards the four tournaments we entered we got out of all the group phases every time with very differing teams.

Odd Down continued to provide a great facility for training and the children have vastly improved in their attentiveness and desire to listen so as to improve. For next season we have some changes with new parents offering to coach and some of the old guard stepping down to make way. Given that the new coaches are good footballers that is probably no bad thing !!! and we feel that a change in personnel will help to freshen up the sessions too. Coaching will be at Kingswood from 7-8 on Fridays.

For next season there have been some comings and goings in the squad as the children start to get to the age where other activities come into play and they just run out of time to do every sport. As a result, we want to say a fond farewell to Tom R, Ben M, Oliver, Louis and Patrick. However, we have new recruits that we believe will be equally strong entering the squad and again will hopefully freshen things up, including a really strong new goal keeper, so fingers crossed this will be an even better season!

### U13s – Dean Morris / Andrew Ward

Regrettably at the time of writing Dean had headed off in his camper van to Barton-On-Sea for his annual “nakation”. Many thanks to Andrew for stepping in to give us the following …

The U13s enjoyed another successful season, both in terms of performances on the pitch and the positive environment created off of it. Finishing in the top 5 of a very competitive league and getting to the semi-finals of the county cup show that we are developing into a team that can get results when needed. However, the thing that is most pleasing about this set of players is the way that they have all bought into the way that we want to play and how we are all preparing them for playing football well into the future. I believe that every player has improved and developed in some way - be it technically, tactically or socially in terms of team-work and co-operation.

What will next season bring? Who knows but we do know that we have to keep working hard and show the same desire to improve, even when there may be more distractions that come with being a 13 and 14 year-old!

### u14s AYL – Ed Tann

Last year’s u14s have always been a joy to work with and to this day seem to train and behave as most of them did as 6 year olds. They are consistently one of the top 3 or 4 teams in the area and play in AYL Div 1 with the highlight of last season being a 5-1 demolition job away at the eventual champions, Mangotsfield, playing out from the back, retaining possession and moving the ball quickly. If it wasn’t for an Easter period when we had to play matches with a bare bones squad, the season might have ended differently but if we have to be remembered as Bath’s Brazil of ’82 equivalent, then we can certainly live with that.

As I write we are about to embark on a week-long trip to Hungary to play in their International Youth Football Festival and no doubt engage in a spot of la folie de jeunesse. It seems we are opening the tournament against a local side in a stadium with 20,000 people in it. I’m pretty sure what we can expect with that one, however as ever, the point of these exercises is to live life, make friends and create memories. Watch this space! We are also indebted to the Charter Trustees of the City that have helped to make this fantastic adventure happen. It has involved an awful lot of planning and hard work from a great many people not directly connected with the club and simply highlights the vital role that Bath City Youth and youth sport more generally play in our city.

### U14s Mid Wilts – Simon Stacey

So after 2 years of table topping performances the 2015 -16 season was set to be a real test for the boys as they stepped up to division 1.

The season was one in which the boys learnt a lot about themselves individually and as a team. The quality of the opposition demanded that the boys were at their best constantly. Whilst match wins were rare the boys for the majority of games played with determination and more importantly a smile on their faces. I am sure that the experience of this season will provide them with useful life lessons for years to come.

Looking ahead to the forthcoming season we face a year in division2 which will provide a more comfortable environment to play in. The squad has been refreshed with a few boys leaving and a long list of boys wishing to join. My hopes for the team are that the boys don't become complacent and start the season with real focus and determination and continue to develop as a team and individually.

### U15s – Paul King

We moved to the Mid Wilts Youth League. Some of the pitches are like pastures, some of the teams have an agricultural approach to football. In general, we played well against the better teams, and not so well against the rest. We've learnt something and we'll do better next season as a result.

### U16s Nick Prescott / Martin Williams

The U16s arrived at their final season under present management, as Nick and Martin pass on the baton to Terry. Both teams had an enjoyable year – mixed results on the field, but certainly no lack of spirit and endeavour. Moving from Midsomer Norton to the Mid-Wilts league worked well for both squads as they were able to compete with teams of similar ability. The highlight for the U16 Boys was playing their last game actually on the pitch at Twerton Park, in front of 10s of supporters. The U16 Barbarians won more league matches than ever and truly competed with the best in their division. Terry has stepped forward to take a combined squad into U17/U18 football, with many of the players opting to carry on playing with their mates. This is a great opportunity, and provides the boys with a sensible intermediate step between youth and adult football.

### u13 girls – Graham Bradley

The girls won the Wilshire under 13 girls league losing only the first game of the season, scoring over 100 goals, winning 2 six aside tournaments and attending a champion of champions day at Yeovil football club. They are a remarkable bunch.



Rear left to right

Sara, Ellie , Lucy, Lizzie , Hannah , Lilly , Megan , Evie , Ellie , Rosie , Graham

Front left to right

Jam, Nellie , Jemima , Charlotte , Alexi , Maddy , Alana

### u15 Girls – Matthew Butters

Regrettably at the time of writing Matt was in Ibiza re-living his flavoursome past as a warm up act for Judge Jules. We’ll hear more about his all-conquering squad another time.

### u17 Girls – Neil Dando

In many ways this wasn’t the easiest of seasons. Not enough players in early September, a strong new league entrant in Yeovil Town Ladies, the disbandment of some of our long standing league members and, most poignantly, the recognition that this would be our last season of youth football together after seven years within the Bath City Youth family.

In late summer we almost had a squad but probably not enough to sustain an 11-a-side team over the course of the season, then a chance Facebook message highlighted that Derry Hill Utd were in the same position, a team with the same ethos and like minded players and management, and a plan came together. The two teams merged and played on as Bath City Youth. New kit was bought and names and numbers applied to shirts. The girls quickly gel’ed into a team and 16 matches were played and enjoyed.

It’s easy to say, but this season has not been about the results. The commitment of the twenty girls that made up Bath City Youth u17G in 2015-16 could not be questioned – and special mention must go to the Derry Hill girls who made the 60-mile round trip for training mid week. We never wanted for a match day squad. We never dropped our heads even when being heavily outscored by one of the south west’s leading ladies’ youth teams. We played our football in an inclusive way, always gaining experience. Mostly trying to play thoughtfully rather than muscle our way in a game but always recognising the importance of team work as well as seeing fitness, physique, skill and determination grow as the season wore on.

Forty-seven girls have actively participated in the seven season of this Bath City Youth team including an American, two Germans and for a brief training session this season an Icelander – and yes she was very good and foretold of that nation’s exploits to come! Over this time, we have welcomed and successfully amalgamated the players from Bradford on Avon, Larkhall and Derry Hill in pursuit of ensuring that the opportunity to play was available to the girls of Bath and the surrounding area.

It's been a fantastic journey always supported by a great committee and parents alike. And as that journey ends and another begins it is hard not to gratuitously quote Camus... "Everything I know about morality and the obligations of men, I owe it to football" or maybe the great Cloughie "if God had intended to play football in the air he would have put grass in the sky!" Carry those thoughts with you every time you step onto the pitch and your football will be what it's meant to be.... enjoyable.

## Miscellaneous

1. Next season we will be engaged in the FA Mentoring Programme which is available to all coaches.
2. Training pitch booking are confirmed for next season.
3. Subs for 2016/17 season will be the same as last season, £140.
4. Anyone interested in pennants should get in touch with Ed.



## Bath City News

Pre season has kicked off and it was fantastic to be at the Bristol Rovers game this week, where City put in an impressive performance against a formidable Pirates side. This might just augur well.



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