

Pre-season Message 2017/18

From John Stent

Old Wokingians had another very successful season in 2016/17 and we will aim for more success in 2017/18

To recap quickly on last season – the 1st team finished 5th in their first season back in the Premier and were the proud winners of the LOB Senior Cup!! This was a magnificent achievement and the final was watched by a great crowd of Old Wokes at Godalming Town FC (we beat Old Carthusians 2-0). A fantastic evening.

The 2s under Jack Farrelly did really well, finishing 6th with 30 points; Andy Stott led the 3s to an excellent 3rd spot and this was good enough to earn promotion!! A great achievement. The 4s and 5s both struggled a bit this time out, but fought through the tough times with considerable spirit. The 6s under Andy Russell were strong performers – finishing 3rd with 35 points – very solid stuff indeed. The 7s had another good season under Liam's leadership and finished 2nd in their division, whilst Mike Edis' 8ths had to settle for 10th spot this time out.

This year Luke Millen takes over from Andy Stott as captain of the 3s, Kyle Becklake gives way to Ben Dominy as skipper of the 5th team and Mike Edis is replaced by Andy Douthwaite in charge of the glorious 8s. We will see some movement of players to rebalance the middle of the club – all to be finalised after the pre-season friendlies and trials. So if you are keen to move up the ladder then make sure you show up for the pre-season games. Many thanks to Andy, Kyle and Mike for their efforts as skipper last year.

Chris Tapp of the 7s won the Golden Boot convincingly with 34 goals and Matt Bobbett once again bagged the Golden Gloves with 9 clean sheets. Well done you two!

We are going with 8 Saturday teams again and there will be competition for places throughout the club. And this year we are launching a Vets team for the first time in a long while. The age minimum is 35 and the team will play on Sunday mornings in the Farnham and District league. Mike Edis is organizing and skippering the team. Full details on the website.

Match fees will YET AGAIN be £10 with £5 for under 21s and NO annual subscription. Unbelievable value. Friendlies will be charged at these rates too, except for games between OWFC teams which will be £5 for everyone.

Disciplinary performance was once again better last year – well done everyone for this. We had just two red cards and one of those led to a Misconduct Charge. But our overall performance showed further improvement on the previous year and this is much to everyone's credit. The 7s deserve special praise, having picked up NIL disciplinary points last season – for the second year running!. Superb.

We improved our Spirit of Football scores – ending above 8.15 as an average. Our club is now rated in the top quartile against all four headings that are prescribed by the league – based on scores submitted by our opponents throughout the season. This year we showed particular improvement in our ratings for Hospitality and Facilities. These results demonstrate to one and all that Old

Wokingians are a club with a great and welcoming spirit and we are also a club that demands respect for the opposition and for the officials .

We invested further in the clubhouse last year (gents toilets refurb and security enhancements), and we continue to have a clubhouse that we can be proud of.

The new catering arrangements continued to be very popular last year – with the bar and catering being run by Nick and his team.

The annual 6-a-side tournament was held for the fourth year this June and was once again a huge success. Our first team won it for the third time. A good time was had by all and a useful injection to club funds also resulted – many thanks to Matt Lane and also to the volunteers who helped with the set up and on the day itself

The club dinner was great last November and is coming up again this year. Dean Somers, our Social Secretary, will be organising the evening, as well as a Golf Day, a Quiz Night and a Darts Night in due course. We will also be repeating the very popular Last Man Standing competition. The Beer festival at the end of the season was also very popular and looks like being being a firm favourite from now on.

As always – new players are always welcome. Anyone interested in playing should make contact with any skipper or committee member (see website for contacts), and/or come down to the preseason trials day.

The Committee is strong and committed and the club is in good shape financially. Special thanks to Warren Smith (Secretary), Hewie (Vice chair), Mike Edis (Treasurer), Jake Knight (Fixtures) and Deano (Social Secretary). We also appreciate the efforts of our 3 trustees on the joint club board with Meadow Sports FC – Dave Lane, Dave Smith and Martin Dunkley. Dave Lane has recently stepped up to take on the chairmanship of the trustees for the next two years.

Finally – all my challenges were once again met last year !! They were - 1s to consolidate in the Premier, one promotion, continued improvement in our disciplinary performance and a cup win. So this year we should aim even higher – let's go for a top 3 finish by the 1s, at least one more promotion and another improvement in disciplinary performance, AND another cup win!!

Old Wokingians is a magnificent club to be part of. I am proud to be your chairman. Let's all have a great time on and off the pitch in 2017/18.

ENJOY THE SEASON.

COME ON YOU WOKES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

John Stent.

