

Portsmouth Football Supporters Club, London Newsletter

September'10

Issue 2



Message from the Committee – from Chairman Dan

With all the shenanigans going on at Fratton Park over the summer you'd be forgiven for forgetting that we do actually have a football team to support. It was therefore a welcome relief to get back to Fratton Park to watch 11 blokes in a Pompey shirt, kick a ball around for 90 minutes. Whilst the quality of football against Reading was not what we have been used to, nor many of the names on the team sheet, there was something quite refreshing about going to a game and not actually expecting anything from it. It was good to hear the Fratton End in fine form and to be able to concentrate on where the team was going wrong, and the state of the new pies, rather the legal ins and outs of going into administration. It might be a tough season on the pitch, but in a strange way I'm looking forward it. Even the reduced attendance had a silver lining, for me at least; not only did I get served in the pub a whole lot quicker, I even managed to find a car park space without too much effort.

Having said all that though, I have yet to make an away trip, so I might be viewing things with blue (and nostalgia) tinted specs. I hope you liked the first edition of the PFSCCL newsletter; I've certainly had some positive comments from a few of you. A big thank you should go to Gina for getting it up and running. Long may it continue.

Recent results and reviews – Reading Brian Moore; Preston & Palace Duncan Hart; Cardiff Gary Alton

Pompey 1-1 Reading (Ciftci 8, Kebe 87), Championship, 14th Aug '10. Fratton Park, Att: 16,497

Us up in the Upper North thought 16000+ was pretty good considering all that's gone on. We also reckoned that under the circumstances, we did OK and with some improvement will hang in there and stay up. Yeah, we know.....Reading was well worth the draw....but we can't miss three open goals and expect to get away with it. I long for the day when Nugent gets a goal.....what's that you say....dream on!!!!!!!!!!!! Glad I went, saw better than I expected and I still haven't heard anything yet that beats the vocal support and atmosphere at Fratton

Preston North End 1-0 Pompey (Hayes 18) Championship, 21st Aug '10 Deepdale Stadium, Att: 9,666

The conversation quickly turned to our favourite Pompey XI, as the 9.30am pulled out from the Euston station. The obvious names were bandied around, from Jimmy Dickinson to Robert Prosinecki, together with some surprise nominations, such as Robbie Pethick and George Ley. We managed to whittle it down to a shortlist of about 67 by Warrington Bank Quay! Some further work will be required to get to an XI, which is required for the Pompey Trust's idea for a Pompey Legends t-shirt series. A few hours spent in the Black Horse saw several dizzy blondes go down very well indeed. On arrival at Deepdale, we sampled several of Preston's finest pies - well, the chicken Balti pie was glowing orange and the meat and potato pie seemed to be lacking meat. As for the game, we barely threatened, other than a couple of long range efforts early in the 2nd half. Let's just hope the new boys on loan from Stoke (Dickinson and Sonko) are lacking match practice, as opposed to making Jon Gittens look like a committed and world class defender. We met some interesting Chelsea fans on the journey back to London, who left their 6-0 win 30 minutes early, as they don't really like football that much - right?! There were also several depressed MK Dons fans on the train; well you would be if you lived in Milton Keynes. A great day was had by several London supporters club members - Scott from Walthamstow, James and Martin from Beckenham and myself (Duncan) on a visit from Ghana; and I'm sure many other members we did not bump into.

Pompey 1-1 Crystal Palace AET (Nugent 57, Sonko (og 81) Carling Cup 2, 24th Aug '10 Fratton Park, Att: 8,412

Pompey win 4-3 on penalties

In years to come 25,000 mashes will claim to have been at 'that' game when Nugent scored, and we won a penalty shoot-out at Fratton Park for the first time in a competitive game. The 8,412 who were there certainly cranked up the volume at times to make up for the rows of empty seats. Then came the moment in the 57th minute, when Nugent fell through a couple of defenders, tripped over the penalty box white lines and accidentally kicked the ball towards the goal. Nugent was as surprised as the Fratton end, when the ball rolled into the net. Ok, a bit harsh, it was a good goal Dave. More in the league please! Sonko went one better than his comical attempt at a clearance at Preston that resulted in a goal, and actually scored for Palace under minimal pressure. 1-1. The game petered out in extra time and penalties followed. We prevailed by managing to miss less than Palace - just. Dickinson did his best to help Palace win by missing his penalty and the re-take - thanks Stoke....again! A special mention to the Palace fans who missed the last train back to London due to staying for the penalties - I hope Fratton station was not too cold! Finally, does anyone have a clue exactly why Edgar Davids has signed for Crystal Palace?

Pompey 0-2 Cardiff City (Mullins (og) 37 Bothroyd 49) Championship, 28th Aug '10 Fratton Park, Att: 15,866

Well, what can I say? This felt like one of the worst games played at Fratton Park, with the second half particularly dire and insipid. The first 11 should be a match for most teams in this division - and indeed they were for most of the game; thing is, they also managed to beat themselves! A Wilson blunder led to an unfortunate Mullins own-goal and another defensive mix-up between Sonko and Ashdown let Cardiff pass into an empty net. The BBC stats sum the game up well: Pompey with two shots on target to Cardiff's zero! The game was crying out for a change, unfortunately Cotterill left it very late to give the kids a run

out. Still, my 10yr old nephew (first time in the Fratton End) enjoyed the game and atmosphere regardless, so perhaps the youngsters will inspire us on and off the pitch yet...

Upcoming Fixtures and Travel

Pompey v Ipswich Town	11/09/2010	15:00	Championship	11.30am Waterloo front carriage
Crystal Palace v Pompey	14/09/2010	19:45	Championship	
Sheffield United v Pompey	18/09/2010	15:00	Championship	
Pompey v Leicester City	Wk of 20/9	tbc	Carling Cup	
Pompey v Leicester City	24/09/2010	19:45	Championship	
Pompey v Bristol City	28/09/2010	19:45	Championship	

Spotlight on London – Walthamstow by Iain McNab

Reasonably priced housing and ease of access to central London on the Victoria Line; the longest street market in Europe, William Morris, Socialist Worker on sale at the tube station. Clemet Attlee was MP here. Ian Dury, Viv Stanshall, Grayson Perry, Benjamin Disraeli. That's about it, since the famous dog track closed. And you could see that coming; it was prefigured by my local 'Greyhound and Whippet Accessory Shop' selling its last muzzles and giant bags of Winalot at knockdown prices at least two years before the track closure.

The famed Walthamstow Avenue football team is also long gone (1988), having been through a series of mergers its now enjoying a near-invisible afterlife in the shape of Dagenham and Redbridge. But their Green Pond Road ground, also gone, hosted the Turkey vs. China match in the 1948 World Cup (attendance: 21,708). And they have their own Subbuteo team (thanks to an Italian aficionado of the club).

The football loyalties of the area, which reminds me a little of Pompey with its square miles of terraced housing, were at one time largely split between Spurs and West Ham (my local, the Dog and Duck, has flags for both hung outside) but the Hammers' star has waned and it's mostly Spurs and Arsenal now. But the place is changing, with many eastern European arrivals bringing a flavour of Dinamo Moscow and Locomotiv Plovdiv. I look forward to them opening some restaurants as we don't have enough variety: no shortage of curry houses and a few Italians in the 'posh' bit - Walthamstow Village. The Village is also where you find two or three half-decent pubs.

Walthamstow is home to at least three PFSCCL members - myself, Scott McLachlan and Kim Manning-Cooper (no, we don't live together in a 'Pompey house' in the Village). As I write Kim has finally completed a three month packing session and fled to Thailand. So then there were two - although I know that several years ago there were at least six non-members/low profile types and there is occasionally a PFC sticker on a car at my local Kwik Fit on the Crooked Billet roundabout. So there must still be more about; make yourselves known if you like

News from the Trust - Trust member and PFCL committee member Scott

The Trust is throwing their support behind Non League Day and is urging Pompey fans to visit their local club on Sept 4th. The Trust AGM is on Thursday 16th September and will be its first. It's being held at the Rifle club on Goldsmith Ave in Fratton and the official business will start at 7pm. A general meeting will follow that as soon as possible. Details will be sent to members via Email and post. For the latest Trust news visit www.pompeytrust.com

Sat September 4th is Non-League Day www.nonleagueday.co.uk

The "non-league football day" is the brainchild of James Doe, a lifelong football fan and supporter of Harrow Borough FC. Its aim is to promote the semi professional game in this country by virtue of a fortuitous break in the football calendar. In James' own words: **" I URGE ALL FANS OF THE BIG CLUBS TO GET OUT AND WATCH THEIR LOCAL NON-LEAGUE TEAM.... GIVEN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CLIMATE, CLUBS OUTSIDE THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE NEED ALL THE SUPPORT THEY CAN GET, SO YOUR PRESENCE AT A GAME WILL BE GENUINELY APPRECIATED. WITH TICKETS AND REFRESHMENTS AT A FRACTION OF THE COST, WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?"** www.nonleagueday.co.uk

Basingstoke vs Braintree Town	Maidstone United vs AFC Hornchurch	Croydon vs Wembley
Marlow vs Ashford Town (Middx)	Dulwich Hamlet vs Burgess Hill Town	Hendon vs Carshalton Athletic
Havant and W vs Thurrock	Colliers Wood United vs Sandhurst Town	Leatherhead vs Whyteleafe

Announcements

Do you travel to games by train? If so do you have a network railcard? At just £25 a year you get 1/3 off most rail fare in the South East. One travel card covers up to three adults travelling with you plus you can take up to four children (aged 5-15). There are restrictions like a minimum fare of £13 and you will probably need to travel after 10am but on a return to Fratton from Waterloo you could be saving £9.45 on a £27.80 ticket. www.railcard.co.uk/network

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