



## Managers Views from around the Grounds

### Andy Bevan Westfields FC

#### Results/performances so far

To be fair, we've had some standout performances this season, whereas you may pick up maybe 2 a year, we have so far picked up 4 top top performances and got results from them, Romulus A 1-4 (Changed system and got great rewards), Hfd A 1-3 different style again reaped rewards, S Khalsa A again another 0-4 win and a stunning second half display but probably standout result and performance came away at local rivals Worcester City where we went in at half time 0-5 to the good and finished game with a 1-6 win

#### Key players/top goal scorers

Whole squad, I know that may sound cheesy but no one player has stood out as getting a 8/10 every week, or banging goals in left right and centre, it has genuinely been an all round team performance, so far this season we have played 31 matches but have completed 64 matches/ coaching sessions, which for a semi pro club is very committed

#### Cup Progress

Overall this season has been disappointing in both the national FA competitions going out way to early which financially and collectively is a big shame, however in League Cup we got to Round of 16 and rather pleasingly this year we again drew Hfd but managed to progress and are now at the semi-final stage

#### Hopes for the second half of the season

Second half of season with 15 games remaining, we really want to kick on and aim for top 4 spot, which in terms of where we are at as a club building on from last years disappointing mid table finish will be a massive plus, if we can do this I genuinely feel we may be even in the mix for a shout of top 2/3 places, to be challenging come end of season would be great as we all luv playing under pressure, plus also it would be an added bonus if we could get to the HFA County Cup final and even win it, always be nice to win something in your first year in charge, but we have a long 4 mths ahead

#### Other thoughts/comments!

Taking over from the legacy of 25 years under Sean at Westfields has been incredibly hard, the club is in an exceptional place in terms of sustainability and status, I have tried to bring an attacking style of play to our game and it would be lovely if we could attract a few more local fans to push our average attendance over the 200 mark as that really pushes everyone on that bit further, with the wonderful youth set up at Westfields and throughout the County as a whole the future could be very bright"

### Richard Jones Hereford Lads Club

"We made a good start to the season with some pleasing performances and with us picking up maximum points in the first three games and also not conceding a goal.

We are still involved in two cup competitions in the WMRL premier Cup and the HFA County Cup; we are hoping to get to the final of both of these competitions, the county cup for the third year in a row.

In our second season playing in the FA Vase we reached the second round only to be knocked out away at AFC Hinckley, after two good results in previous round's against Coventry Copsewood and Paget Rangers. We thought we should have beaten Hinckley but again poor finishing and individual mistakes cost us. In the League cup we put in a superb performance in beating an inform Bilston team away 5-3 having gone down to 10 men in the first half, in the next round we have been drawn at home to play Bewdley Town. In the HFA County Cup we had a bye in the first round and came out 3-1 winners away in a difficult encounter against a strong Malvern Town reserves side in the second round, in the ¼ final draw we have drawn Bartestree away.

Like most teams we haven't really been able to have a settled side mainly due to availability through work, injuries or suspensions. We have had our usual stalwarts in club captain and goalkeeper Steven Bell, forward Kiea Cowley-Hair, midfielders Kalum Wildig & Tom Dawson and also the centre half partnership of Jamie Cuthbertson & Liam Jones available for most of our games which is basically the spine of our team and important to how we play. Young wingers James Hancocks & Ashley Lear have played important roles this season along with Tom Harding up front & James Fennessy & Jordan Williamson in the fullback berths, Gareth Bowley has started to pick up some form and vying for that fullback position and with Zac Sirrell & Rory Worthing now unavailable Alex Lancett & Brad Williams have played their way into the starting eleven.



Brad unfortunately has picked up a nasty injury along with Jake Robinson who had a good start to the season, Chris Gwynne, Jamie Bell, Jordan Moon, Cameron Godsall, Curt Green & Jordan Burke have come in and played their part when required or available. Adam Hockey has come back in from Hereford Fc on dual registration & has been in great form but unfortunately has picked up a hamstring injury.

At the moment we are in 8th place in the league and hope to at least finish in the top 5 and to make two cup finals but we will need to have all these players available, this is probably the smallest squad we have assembled over the last few years and so important not to pick up any more injuries or suspensions."

**Gary Stevens**

**Wellington FC**

"After a good preseason, our hopes were high for this season 18/19. This was put on the back burner when for the first few games we struggled to put out teams. This grew so bad we had to sign 3 players on dual registration in order to fulfill our fixtures. There was no single reason for this lack of players.

Our fixture schedule for the beginning of the season and up until Christmas has been very difficult. We have had to play 5 of the top six sides away from home during this period. The disruptive nature of losing players has set us back.

The players have played excellently in several games but due to having to change from game to game (personal) this has not allowed any consistency in the team.

With several players returning from long-term injuries in the new year we hope to up climb the league. I am looking forward to the second half of the season and hope we can keep the players fit and healthy. This would then give us the consistency that we need.



**Wayne Whitbread**

**Clee Hill United**

"Our first season in the league and we are very happy with the way it is going. We've been impressed by the facilities of all the clubs we have visited. On the pitch results have in the majority gone well although we are disappointed to be out of all the cups. Hopefully after Christmas we can continue on good form and enjoy the rest of the season."

**Ben Hince**

**Holme Lacy**

"It has been a mixed start for Holme Lacy in the Premier league this season. Not all the results in the league have reflected our performances on the pitch and we should have got more out of some of the fixtures. However we have a semi-final to look forward to in the new year and we are hoping for a "Holme Lacy final day which has been a great football day out in previous finals".

"Putting out a consistent side has been difficult for both Holme Lacy sides due to injuries and other commitments the players have. I see this as a theme across a number of teams in the County League but I know talking to other managers and committee members the passion to keep going is there stronger than ever. Some fixtures have been difficult with the lack of referees but all clubs need to treat them with respect and I am sure that the number available will increase.

"I am looking forward to 2019 and beyond for Holme Lacy as a club. We are in a strong position on and off the pitch and with a consistent side for both teams we will start to climb up the respective league. Competing with other sides in the league has not been an issue we just need a settled side now to get what we deserve from the games"

"We have a good balance of experienced and young players and we are always looking to add to our squad if you are interested. The club has a great atmosphere especially in Lambos club house after the game and we have our annual golf day and tour to Krakow to look forward to in 2019"

"I would like to wish everyone involved in local football a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to entertaining you next year at Holme Lacy. A lot of work goes into all clubs in the league to keep local football as enjoyable as it is on and off the pitch. Well done and keep going"





**Scott Mackenzie**  
**Ludlow Town Colts**

"In only their third season the HFL division 1, Ludlow Colts have had the best possible start to the 2018/19 campaign. Unbeaten in both the league and Hereford Junior Cup and narrowly losing out to higher placed opposition in the Shropshire Challenge Cup. Notably one of their best performances was beating Hereford Premier league team and local rivals Clee Hill in a thrilling 3-2 cup win.

Colts have bolstered their young squad with more accomplished players and this has helped in all areas of the team. Experienced Dan Crowther being top goal scorer on 14, closely followed by youngster Dan Griffiths on 12 and Jabez Smith on 8. Young defenders Nath Priday and Sol Barker having a tremendous season so far alongside the experience of Martin Jones and with Si Bradley, Andrew Pugh and Dean Harding all joining from Wooferton this season this squad has never been stronger.

Ludlow Colts hope to continue their impressive form into the new year and continue to push for promotion, with youngsters from the under 17's also pushing for places in a squad with an average age of 23, the future hasn't looked better. There are some tough games ahead but the mood and team spirit within the squad is good.

Ludlow Colts meet local rivals Shobdon in the HFA Junior Cup semi final in February and look to book a place in the final; it will be a tough match but everyone is up for the challenge."



**Rob Williams**  
**Shobdon FC**

"After a recruitment drive and taking the plunge of promotion, we have had a decent enough season to date, drew to many games early on but are now clicking as a group. The lads are buying into what I want to achieve and this is showing on the pitch!

After Christmas we will be looking to push for promotion to the Premier league, to get back to where we once were, and then to attempt to win the Junior cup, starting with a nice local derby with Ludlow Colts!"

**John Acaster**  
**The Lion**



"On the whole been very pleased with the lads in terms of attendance and level of performance apart from the Hereford Harriers away game. Our best performance ironically coming against them at home in a 5-1 win. With facing every team 4 times you get to know each team quite well and I'd like to say well done to Whitecross who have improved tremendously after their first few results.

Personally I've missed one game due to other commitments so I would like to thank Neil Stokes and Craig Morris for their help in running the side. We've made a couple of signings in Kyle & Corey Whitticase who've added to a strong squad with the goals shared between Connor Bufton, David Davies & Ryan Botwood.

Our aim for the rest of the season is to finish the league in top spot and carry on playing some good football."



**Scott Russell**  
**Hereford FC Women**

"I'm fairly happy with our league performance, our main aim was to be competitive in every match and I feel we have done that for the majority of games with only a couple of disappointing performances so far. However I have set high standards at HFC and unless we hit those standards I will not be fully satisfied. The young players have grown since preseason and are adjusting to senior football better than I thought they would have at this stage. We know teams raise their game against us and we have showed naivety at times this season so Ben, my assistant and I, decided to add a couple of new additions to the squad to freshen things up, add competition and give the squad some much needed experience. Overall we are in a healthy place and it has been a really good few months for the team and coaches."



### **Kirsty Dodd-Cox** **Tupsley Ladies**

"Tupsley ladies is a newly formed football team consisting of mum's at the club and ladies who play for the love of the game. Having only played a total of 3 games, the ladies are still learning and getting to grips with how one another play. Although not winning any games, the team spirit and determination has really come up wonders and is an asset in which we are incredibly proud of. Top goal scorers so far this season are Sophie Preece and Kirsty Dodd-Cox with 2 each. Amy Wright, Charlie Watkins and Kelsey Davies being key assets to the team on a Sunday also, although every individual inputs their own strength into matches. Kelsey has stepped up to the goalie position and has shown particular strength and team spirit from here. Our hopes for the second half of the season are to continue having fun whilst playing and to develop more through game play. We have a very promising group of ladies here and we are really excited to see where this team can go with the help of Sean (coach). We would also like to credit all the other teams in the league for their respect through matches."

### **Paul Cotton** **Civil Service FC**

"Considering that the Club was in danger of folding during the summer months, this season to date has seen a dramatic turnaround in our fortune.

Having retained and recruited a number of players in key positions to boost our Squad enabling us to have strength in depth, it was evident following our preseason programme that we had the potential to make a good impression and challenge for something this season.

Although we lost our opening match away to Kington Town Reserves, we have gone from strength to strength and managed to establish ourselves as potentially one of the leading contenders for promotion at the end of this season with only losing one other game in the league to date.

We have had mixed fortunes in the Cup competitions which we have entered this season after losing 6-1 at home to St John's Howle Hill in the HFA Junior Cup and then beating Hinton Reserves 5-2 (AET) away in the Ross Cup setting up a Semi Final clash against Ross Juniors.

Although our top goal scorer, Jack Gough, has continued to increase his goal tally, other members of the squad have managed to find their scoring boots which has been encouraging.

As we approach the second half of the season, we are fully aware that there is still a long way to go but we will continue to strive towards our ultimate aim of securing promotion."

### **John Hawkes** **Weobley FC**

"Results/performances so far" = Beating Lads Club 4-3 away in a top of the table clash, also drawing with Civil Service 2-2 when we had an extremely depleted squad.

Key players/top goal scorer = Liam Watton has been scoring bags of goals for us, Oliver Rose has been rock solid at the back.

Cup Progress = We went out of the HFA Junior Cup 3-2 vs Wellington from Div.1, 3-0 down at HT which was completely against the run of play, we managed to pull back 2 goals second half but couldn't force a 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Hopes for the second half of the season = Since the start of the season, we have lost so many key players, our initial target was to win the league, a more realistic target now would be to gain promotion."



**Marcus Jenkins**  
**Hereford Lads Club Ladies**



"Well we are half way into the season for Hereford Lads Club Ladies, which so far a been a varied bag of results. We started the season with an invitation to play in the Womens SSE FA cup competition, certainly worth a try especially with the prize money on offer. Unfortunately we were drawn against Kidderminster Ladies, a team of mostly ex professional Wolves players. But even after convincing win by them, we had a great day and played 100% for 90 mins. The next cup competition was the Bill Allsopp League cup, only lost 1-0 but in a game which turned out to be a nightmare for us. 2 serious injuries both requiring ambulances, meant we lost key players and momentum. Hard to carry on when you see team mates injured, injuries that we now know will probably not see them play again this season. As for league currently 4th, very different this year with new teams and revamped teams. Played 8, won 6 lost 2. So doing well in what is going to be a close competition this season, but we are 3 games behind the leading team due to weather. So an Artifical pitch would certainly solve this looking forward. Best news for us is the introduction of the Herefordshire Womens County Cup, which I'm pleased to say we progressed through the first round with a convincing win of 4-1 against Hereford FC Ladies. We have a great Ladies team at Lads Club, every player does their bit and play as a team. If you look at the goal scoring you will see the results spread accross several players, that's because our team is more than just about one golden boot. Every player is just as important and equal in the part they play, not forgetting Coach Clive Powis. He turns up week in week out for training and matches, enjoying the football and banter as we all do. Time to enjoy a break now over christmas, although we are all meeting up for curry and drinks. Well done ladies, bring on 2019."