

## CHARLIE'S NOTES

#### Good Afternoon Wanderers,

From myself and on behalf of the management team, players and volunteers, we welcome you to Meadowbank this afternoon for our Southern Combination Division One fixture against Worthing United.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the committee, management, players and volunteers from Worthing travelling across from West Sussex to us for today's game. We hope you enjoy your visit.

We are really looking forward to being back on our own patch again this afternoon - it will be our first home league game on a Saturday since August 23rd!

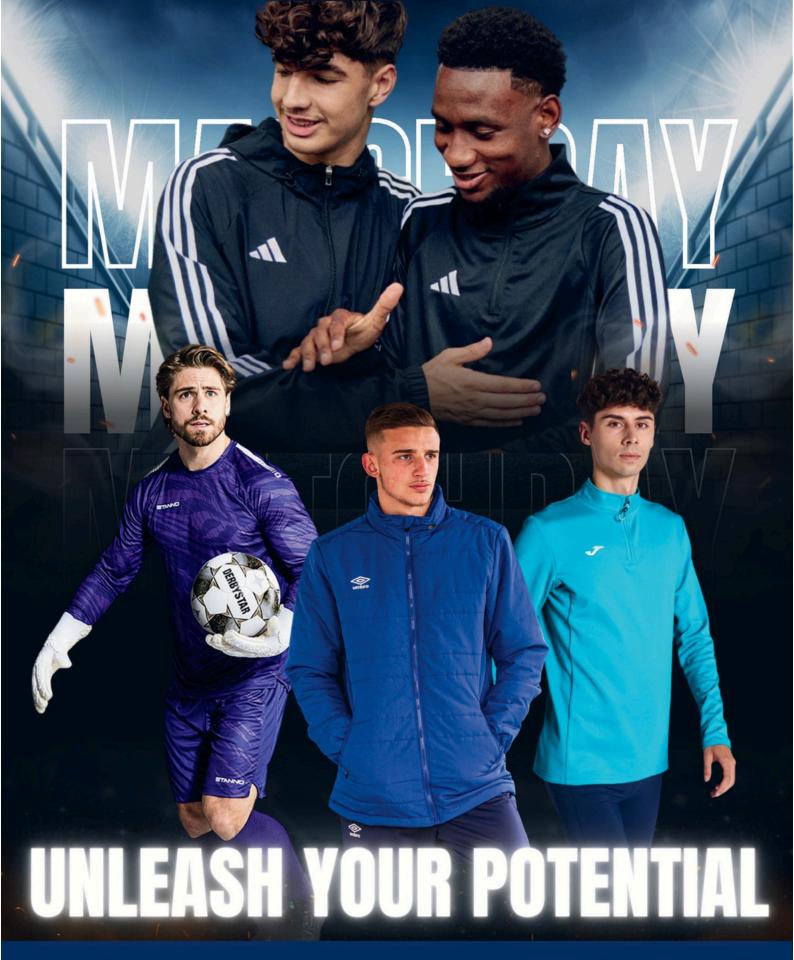
Our last home game was under the lights against Godalming Town on Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup>, a really entertaining contest against the league leaders finishing in a 1-1 draw. On an evening where we welcomed first team players Joshua Hebert, Luke Moore and Jordan Norville-Williams and Louie Sullivan into the side, we responded well to going behind very early on in the game, Hebert producing a superb solo goal later in the first half to get us back on terms, and we showed good character and spirit from there to go toe-to-toe and come away with a point against the form side in the division.

By contrast last weekend I was really disappointed with the performance and result away to Infinity FC, who we know from our memorable battles last season are a strong outfit in this league. We strayed too far away from we are about, disregarding our game plan, and made too many poor decisions as a collective. In the end it was a 3-1 defeat and despite picking up a few draws, means we are still without a win on the road in the league in 25/26. This is of course well below the standards we strive for and something we must change as we approach the midway point of the campaign.

We do remain unbeaten at home, albeit with a few draws and lower number of games played, but it's vital we keep that run going as the home matches start to pick up. Historically Meadowbank has often been a fortress for the B team and we need to ensure that remains the case more than ever as we push to build some momentum. A 4<sup>th</sup> placed Worthing side coming to us today will not make that easy - we will have to be at out very best to make sure we put points on the board come 5pm.

Thank you for your continued support - and I look forward to seeing you back at Meadowbank this afternoon!

Charlie





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## WORTHING UNITED

THE CLUB WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED WIGMORE ATHLETIC AND WERE ONE OF THE FOUNDER MEMBERS OF DIVISION TWO OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY FOOTBALL LEAGUE FOR THE 1952–53 SEASON. THE FIRST SEASON IN THE LEAGUE BROUGHT INSTANT SUCCESS AS THEY FINISHED AS CHAMPIONS AND GAINED PROMOTION TO DIVISION ONE. THE CLUB THEN SPENT THE NEXT THIRTEEN SEASONS IN DIVISION ONE DURING WHICH TIME THEY WON THE LEAGUE CUP IN THE 1959–60 SEASON. THIS PERIOD ALSO SAW THE CLUB MAKE THEIR DEBUT IN THE FA CUP. AT THE END OF THE THIRTEEN SEASONS IN DIVISION ONE THE CLUB WAS RELEGATED TO DIVISION TWO BUT AFTER TWO SEASONS WERE BACK IN DIVISION ONE. HOWEVER THE CLUB WAS IMMEDIATELY RELEGATED AGAIN, AND HAD TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE 1973–74 CAMPAIGN TO GET BACK IN THE TOP DIVISION, WHEN THEY FINISHED AS CHAMPIONS OF DIVISION TWO.

THE CLUB COMPETED IN DIVISION ONE FOR FOUR SEASONS BEFORE BEING RELEGATED TO DIVISION TWO WHERE THEY STAYED UNTIL THE END OF THE 1987–88 CAMPAIGN. AT THE END OF THE 1987–88 CAMPAIGN WIGMORE ATHLETIC WERE RELEGATED TO DIVISION THREE OF THE SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE. THE CLUB THEN CHANGED ITS NAME TO WORTHING UNITED WHEN THEY AMALGAMATED WITH LOCAL SIDE SOUTHDOWN FC. THE NEWLY NAMED CLUB TOOK TWO SEASONS TO ESCAPE FROM DIVISION THREE, WHEN THEY GAINED PROMOTION BACK TO DIVISION TWO AS CHAMPIONS. THE CLUB THEN SPENT THE NEXT FOURTEEN SEASONS IN DIVISION TWO, WITH THE FINAL OF THESE FOURTEEN SEEING THE CLUB GAIN PROMOTION BACK INTO DIVISION ONE AS RUNNERS-UP IN THE 2003–04 SEASON. THE CLUB REMAINED IN DIVISION ONE UNTIL THE END OF THE 2008–09 CAMPAIGN WHEN THEY FINISHED BOTTOM OF THE DIVISION AND FOUND THEMSELVES BACK IN DIVISION TWO. THEY WON PROMOTION BACK TO DIVISION ONE IN THE 2010–11 SEASON UNDER MANAGER DOMINIC DI PAOLA.

# WORTHING UNITED

IN JANUARY 2013 WORTHING UNITED APPOINTED PAUL CURTIS AS THEIR MANAGER. IN NOVEMBER 2013 JOHN FOLEY WAS APPOINTED AS HIS REPLACEMENT. THE SEASON ENDED WITH RELEGATION BACK TO DIVISION 2. THIS SEASON MALCOLM GAMLEN, THE CLUB SECRETARY FOR OVER 20 YEARS, SADLY PASSED AWAY. JUNE 2014 SAW ANOTHER MANAGERIAL CHANGE WITH NIGEL GEARY REPLACING JOHN FOLEY. IN HIS FIRST YEAR AT THE HELM, GEARY GUIDED THE CLUB BACK TO THE NEW PREMIER DIVISION; FORMERLY KNOWN AS DIVISION ONE, AFTER WINNING THE LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE.

ON 22ND AUGUST 2015 THE CLUB WAS HIT BY TRAGEDY WHEN MATTHEW GRIMSTONE AND JACOB SCHILT WERE LOST IN THE SHOREHAM AIR DISASTER. THE TEAM DID NOT PLAY AGAIN UNTIL 6TH SEPTEMBER, WHEN THEY FACED EAST PRESTON IN AN FA VASE TIE. THE MATCH WAS PLAYED IN FRONT OF MORE THAN 1000 SPECTATORS AND THE MAVERICKS WON THE GAME 2-1 IN DRAMATIC FASHION.

THE 2018/19 SEASON WAS AN EVENTFUL ONE. IN SEPTEMBER, AFTER A CONCERNING DIP IN FORM, MANAGER MATT EVANS LEFT THE CLUB. CURTIS FOSTER TOOK OVER THE REIGNS BUT AFTER JUST ONE MATCH IN CHARGE, HE LEFT THE MAVERICKS TO TAKE OVER AT SHOREHAM. ADAM KIPLING REPLACED HIM AND REMAINED IN PLACE UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEASON, WITH A BOTTOM-PLACED FINISH ENDING A FORGETTABLE SEASON. A RELEGATION REPRIEVE SAW THE MAVERICKS RETAIN THEIR DIVISION ONE STATUS, AND 2019/20 WAS SEEN AS A FRESH START WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF DANNY WOOD AS MANAGER.

STEADY PROGRESSION HAS SEEN THE MAVERICKS SLOWLY IMPROVE, FINISHING 15TH IN 2021/22, 11TH IN 2022/23 AND 5TH IN 2023/24, LOSING ON PENALTIES IN THE PLAYOFF SEMI FINAL. DISAPPOINTMENT OF MISSING THE PLAYOFFS LAST SEASON HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH OPTIMISM WITH A FRESH MANAGEMENT TEAM OF MARK CURRAM AND GLENN SOUTER AIMING TO TAKE THE MAVS TO THE PREMIER DIVISION AT THE FIRST ATTEMPT.

## **WANDERERS B**

### **WORTHING UNITED**

Manager - Charlie Dunne

Manager - Mark Curram

### **SQUAD**

Sam Allison (GK) Cameron Sturman (GK)

Rubens Andrade Bertie Baker Cristiano Barreca Leo Bines Tom Bland Bruno Dackombe **Donny Daniels** Barney Dowling-Campbell **Chris Ewen** Donnell Fitzgerald Luca Fulco **Dillon Grass** Max Holland **Gabriel Jacks** James McLeod Noah Moore Finley Murtagh Emmanuel N'Cho Samuel N'Cho

Charlie Pepper Finley Powell

Miguel Rodriguez Miles Straker Ted Sullivan Blaise Weller

### **SQUAD**

Xhermal Bako (GK) Samuel Marsden (GK)

> Liam Appleton **Harry Butler** Thomas Butler Michael Coupar Sean Culley Lee Garnham Dan Hills **Bradley Hunt Ahmed Kamil Daniel Kingston** Moses Pannell **Ethan Roberts** Luis Sa Castro Dean Sherwood **Andrew Younger** James Younger