

# WESTBURY FOOTBALL CLUB

## 2015/2016 SEASON MATCH REPORTS

### SEP 2015 – APRIL 2016

#### Match Report 5th September 2015

##### Westbury vs Hanslope Away

The passion was high in the changing rooms as the team discussed tactics and how to beat the strong Hanslope team. The score at the end of the game was not flattering (6:2 defeat) although Westbury matched the opposition on the pitch for tempo and intensity for majority of game with fitness lacking in the last 15 minutes. A battling performance from Shinner at left back who got injured 4 times but continued to throw his body into every tackle, centre back Leon Brighton's Man of Match touch and dedication to stopping the opposition sweeping up behind Steve Upstone and Andy Whitehead (goal keeper) making double figures of saves were performances to mention.

A penalty and 1:1 on with the goal keeper meant Westbury put 2 goals away with Centre Forward Mark Gillespie working hard up front. It was the opposition's number 10 that punished us taking the ball round 4 players when the mistake was made to change the centre backs that took the game away from Westbury, at 3:1. The team ethos however was started with the boys returning to the pub for the cheapest drinks (4 pints for under a £10) to discuss the game and watch the football on the TV. Team: GK Andy Whitehead, LB Shinner, RB Mainsy, CB Leon B (MOM), CB Steve Upstone, CM Neil O'Connell (Captain), RW Danny Fenning, CM Tubbs, CF Mark Gillespie, LW George Wilks, Tommy Fairweather, Nick Smith and Dave Osborne starting on the touch line.

The club are recruiting new players to strengthen the squad. For further information please contact Dave Osborne 07429270956

#### Match Report 12th September 2015

##### Deserved Draw snatched in the last minute Westbury 2: Wing 3

Assistant Manager Steve Upstone warned of the boogie team Wing, who have in previous matches been out played by Westbury and in the final minutes of the game clinched a last minute winner. History repeats itself and sure enough a awkward bounce put their CF in for half volley lob over the Westbury Goal Keeper in the final 2 minutes of the game. With the team strengthened by the addition of 4 players including Skipper Paul Campbell who put in tremendous amount of leg work in the midfield and Jack O'Connell (Man of the match) who scored Westbury's first half goal, the score was tied at two all courtesy of Neil O'Connell's toe poke in to the bottom corner, past the static Wing Goal keeper. The Westbury side was rather hard done by, with two dubious penalties awarded, one a hand ball in the area where Andrew Green who had his hands and elbows up shielding his face/neck as he was sandwiched between two opposition players and red card when Manager David Osborne tackled the man with the ball (getting all of the ball) and being accused of preventing a goal scoring opportunity. It is safe to say the rematch is very much looked forward to. The Westbury side, showed that training was working with Fitness levels in the final 15 minutes outshining the opposition. Team: Harry White, Andrew Green, Leon Brighton (who saved the ball of the line), Sean Larkin, Steve Upstone, Liam Fitz, George Wilks. Matt Hawes, Jack White, Harry Mattock. Neil O'Connell, Jack O'Connell, Paul Campbell, Danny Fenning, David Osborne (Red Card). It was also good to see Tommy Fairweather (played previous week) who came and supported the side.

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#### Match Report 19th September 2015

##### Westbury Team momentum grows as Westbury FC move up the table

##### Final score Westbury 5, Silverstone Reserves 3

After two losses on the trot, the Westbury side came out fiery and passionate to beat the Silverstone team who were 3 places above them in the league table. With assistant manager Steve Upstone unavailable, injured Liam Fitz (helped by his other half) stepped up to manage first half rolling subs from the side. First planned change brought new signing Callum Henderson into the defence, with Tommy Fairweather going up front. Impact substitution

Tommy came on and with only touching the ball twice crossed the ball to Jack O'Connell who timed his run perfectly to put the ball into the net (1:0 Westbury). Westbury then conceded with the referee waving play on, with linesman signalling for offside with a one on one with the keeper to make it 1:1. Goals followed from Jack O'Connell, Harry Mattock who returned fired up after a brief roll (controversial touch from Neil O'Connell) and screamer of goal from Nick Smith (late substitute for striker Jack O'Connell) assisted by Harry White. The clincher and final goal came from Mikey Grasso, who slide in to make the score 5:3 Westbury. Performances to note Paul Campbell, flick over and catch again on his right boot in the centre mid, Matt Hawes (Tubbs) blazing run down the wing from left back taking on two players and slotting the ball into the CF feet and man of match performance from Harry White who kept the Westbury in the game making double figure saves. Fired up Harry Mattock was another contender from MOM, with his glorious second half performance working hard to get involved and pinging pinpoint balls all over the pitch. The team came off the pitch and celebrated together, a fantastic team performance. The Westbury team ethos grows with virtually all players staying to celebrate our first victory in the pub after. Next game is our first home game, it would be great to Westbury Villagers come and support their Senior Side (3 O'Clock Kick Off – Tingewick). Thanks go to Ted who ran the line second half.

### **Match Report 26th September 2015**

#### **Westbury winning streak continues – first win at home (unbeaten on home turf).**

A fantastic team performance at new Tingewick ground, with the ground and facilities passing the North Bucks league inspection, due to extremely hard work from the Thursday night four hour stint cleaning and repairing the changing rooms – thanks to all of the team that mucked in – brilliant work. To the game, the boys in Green (Yardly Gobion) emerged from the pristine changing rooms keen and vocal. The Westbury team came out fired up from the team talk, riding on the previous weeks win.

The game started well with Manager David Osborne, who played the ball down the line, for David Osborne to pick up the ball again, cutting inside the left back and slot the ball past the goal keeper into the top corner of the net. Goals followed from Jack O'Connell and Mikey Grasso, with Jack dribbling through two players and calmly placing past the goal keeper and Mikey's late run on to the ball and blasting it home. Both Jack and Mikey scored again to make the final score 5 Westbury, Yardley 0. A fantastic first home game, with the team celebrating with Chippy Butties down the Tingewick Pub The Royal Oak, Thanks to Tony Distan for organising.

Performances to Note: Man of the Match for the second time this season Sean Larkin (RB) whose work rate was incredible, tackling, holding players off, anticipating play and supporting CB 's Leon Brightman, Steve Upstone and Daz Faulkner. The first Yellow Card of the season was pulled on Leon Brightman who had a sterling game running the defence for a late tackle. Harry White, previous MOM, saved three shots in row diving across the goal to keep a clean sheet. Jack O'Connell was denied the chance of his hatrick for the second time by the manager substituting him again on 68th minute with brother Neil O'Connell producing a hatrick of very near misses on goal (keep going Neil). The team must be thanked for their team spirit in arriving early to help with nets and flags with special thanks to Tubbs who marked out the pitch for the second time after it was mowed Saturday morning.

**A 5:0 win** puts Westbury 5th in the league, climbing up from 3rd from bottom. Thanks also to the supporters for watching, we look forward to seeing more Westbury Villagers supporting next week when we are at home again to SouthCott Village Reserves (third in the league with a game in hand). Team: Harry White(GK), Sean Larkin(LB), Steve Upstone(CB), Leon Brightman(CB), George Wilks(RB), Mikey Grasso(LW), Jack White (RW), Neil O'Connell (CM), David Osborne(CM), Paul Campbell (CM/CF), Jack O'Connell (CF), Matt Hawes (Cm), Nick Smith(CF), Andrew Green (LB), Tommy Fairweather (LW/RW), Daz Faulkner (CB).

### **Match Report 3rd October 2015**

#### **Westbury vs Unbeaten Top of the league Southcott**

The boys knew from the outset that this was likely to be the toughest match that they would face in the league, reviewing the opposition league record only conceding 5 goals across 5 matches and tripling this in goals scored. The decision was made to compact the defence with Sean Larkin assigned the role of sweeper and pushing Liam Fitz and Daz Faulkner slightly forward. This prevented the opposition from scoring initially. Despite conceding two goals, Westbury matched the very quick and agile opposition battling all over the pitch and running themselves ragged preventing Southcott from having time to play. Long range shot over opposition goal keeper (after his mistake to throw out) from Paul Campbell and the Jack O'Connell swinging corner for Paul Campbell to run late from the edge

of the 18yrd box to first time half volley into net made Paul Campbell obvious candidate for Man of Match. A well taken penalty from Jack O'Connell added to the total with **the score finishing 5:3**. It must be said in the last twenty minutes Westbury attack was relentless with fitness levels showing. Strong Team performances from Callum Henderson, Sean Larkin and Liam Fitz must also be highlighted. Team: Harry White (GK), Sean Larkin(CB), Daz Faulkner (CB), George Wilks (LB), Callum Henderson (RB), Liam Fitz(CB), Neil O'Connell (CM), Paul Campbell (CM), Jack White (RW), Michael Grasso (LW), Jack O'Connell (CF), Matt Hawes (CM), Nick Smith (CF), Bernie Dean (LW). Well done boys, next match is at home to Towcester Reserves. We again look forward to seeing our supporters there. Thanks to David Grange for his ongoing input and work towards making the team run and to Tony Distan for looking after us in the Pub.

### **Match Report 10th October 2015** **Westbury host Towcester Res**

The passionate Westbury side lead the game for 65 minutes competing fiercely for every 50/50 with Michael Grasso taking the ball and half volleying it into the back of the net to make it 1 nil Westbury. The opposition complained and bickered about every decision and even moaned at each other descending into thug like behaviour in the second half, threatening and physically intimidating the Westbury players. This led to our second centre forward being carted off injured right foot (Ligaments torn), Chris Slade out for another 2 weeks, (with the first centre forward too injured to continue) centre back Steve Upstone's leg to swell to double the size after a dangerous tackle and Westbury conceding two goals. Positive to take from the game was Westbury's team spirit where they continued to play with decorum and fight despite this going on around them. Man of the match went to Steve Upstone for his blinding first half performance. **Final score 3:1**; Team: Harry White (GK), Sean Larkin (LB), George Wilks (RB), Liam Fitzgerald (CB), Neil O'Connell (CM), David Osborne (CM), Paul Campbell (Skipper – CM), Jack O'Connell (CF), Jack White (RW), Michael Grasso (LW), Callum Henderson (LB), Danny Fenning (RW) Ricky Campbell (CB), Chris Slade (CF); Performances to note from Sean Larkin and Callum Henderson who threw themselves in tackles, Chris Slade who held the ball up – coming back from injury working tirelessly up front and Liam Fitzgerald who commanded the backline. Assistant Manager Steve Upstone is running the side next week (Good Luck Steve) – we are away to Marsh Gibbon Reserves and we look forward to seeing supporters coming to watch, thank you to our supporters today. Thanks go to Tubbs and David Grainge who without your help this football club would not function so well.

### **Match Report 17th October 2015** **Westbury VS Marsh Gibbon Away** **WESTBURY 4 Marsh Gibbon 3**

When the referee stated that he wanted to kick off 15 minutes early most people presumed it was because he was in a rush to get back to watch the rugby. As it turned out, the game kicked off early just to make sure it finished on time as a rather odd but entertaining game away to Marsh Gibbon unfolded. Westbury started with Harry W in goal behind a back four of Daz, Leon, Ricci and George. The midfield was made up of Jack W, Paul, Neil and Mike, with Harry M playing just off of Jack O in attack. Liam was injured putting his kit on so was unable to stand in for Ricci who was still lost in the village 10 minutes before kick off.

The game started with both sides trying to play decent football on one of the best pitches in the league but clear cut chances were at a premium. A Harry M drive from distance that was comfortably gathered by the 'keeper was all Westbury had to show for an encouraging start. For all the good football on show it was Marsh Gibbon who took the lead mid way through the half with a classic route one goal. A ball over the top caught the defence out and the striker raced onto the ball and calmly slotted Gibbon into the lead. Westbury didn't let their heads drop however, and started to look more threatening as the half wore on. Neil went close to the equaliser as his glancing header from a corner was tipped over the bar by the keeper. As the pressure started to build a great team move saw the ball played through to Jack in the area but he had to rush his chance with the outside of his foot and the shot dragged agonisingly wide.

The equaliser came from a similar situation as the ball was again played into Jack's path but this time he was caught in two minds as to whether to head or volley it. In the end he opted for the header which was comfortably saved by the keeper. The defender however, had pre-empted that Jack would volley it so swung a boot catching Jack on the shins. It was perhaps a fortunate penalty as the defender's kick had no bearing on Jack's header being saved, but Paul didn't need a second invitation to confidently dispatch the penalty. A third similar attack resulted in Jack colliding

with the keeper with both players lying injured on the floor. The flag had already gone up and play had stopped so Steve, standing in as manager for the absent Dave, rushed onto the pitch with the medical bag. He was promptly stopped in his tracks by the referee who ordered him back off the pitch and said that if he entered the pitch again without authority then he would be reported to the League. Whilst being technically correct, it seemed a little over-zealous for the North Bucks League but it was just to be a taster of what was to come in the second half.

With half-time approaching Westbury were once again undone by a ball over the top. This time Ricci mis-judged a clearance and the nippy striker raced through on goal again. Ricci did well to get back at him and put a challenge in just as the striker was shooting but the ball rolled agonisingly past Harry and slowly into the corner of the goal. The half time whistle went shortly afterwards. Westbury came out for the second half with Sean Larkin on in replace of Ricci but were not allowed to kick off as the referee had noticed Paul's knee was bleeding. Steve then had to delve into the medical-bag in search of something that would stop Paul's knee from bleeding for possibly the first time in his footballing career. As the game kicked off you sensed that the flimsy plasters were not going to last long.

Westbury went searching for the equaliser but were struggling to reach the same tempo as the first half. Despite this the equaliser did come after they forced a succession of corners. Jack W swung the ball in towards the back post where Mike intelligently headed back across goal for Neil to head home.

Marsh Gibbon nearly re-took the lead shortly after when the nippy striker was played through on goal again. He went through one-on-one with Harry who produced a brilliant save and tipped it onto the post with George clearing away the rebound. It was to prove a vital save as shortly after, Callum, who came on for George, ran down the left wing and cut onto his right foot before unleashing a curling shot from fully 30 yards that had the keeper beaten all ends up. Unfortunately for Callum the effort was a fraction too high and hit the cross-bar. Fortunately for Westbury Jack O was following up and scuffed an effort at goal that looked like the keeper had covered but in the end he could only help it into the corner of the net.

Paul was made to leave the pitch as the plasters on his knee had finally come off and shortly after Sean Larkin blocked a driven cross with a part of his anatomy that he would probably rather not have used. He curled up into a ball, before springing back into life, sprinting off the pitch and curling back into a ball again. Steve was not so quick with the medical bag to help with that injury! It left Westbury to defend the corner with 9 men, a task that they still struggle with 11 men. They managed to hold out though and eventually Paul and Sean Larkin returned to the pitch.

With Marsh losing the game they started to lose their heads as well. Tubbs was running the line and they took exception to his decision that the ball had not crossed the line for a throw. The referee was having none of it and sent off the substitute for his torrent of abuse directed at poor Tubbs. Shortly after, Mike won the ball on half way and played the ball to Sean Larkin who, finally out of his protective ball, ran towards the area where to everybody's surprise, including his, he unleashed a low drive into the bottom corner from 20 yards to make it 4-2.

Leon then pulled up with cramp and was replaced by Ricci with Tubbs coming on for Neil. From that point on the game became a bit surreal, with play being interrupted every few minutes for the referee to brandish a yellow card to any number of substitutes and fans on the side line. On the football side Westbury were having to withstand heavy pressure but were counter attacking well. The referee then blew what many thought was the full time whistle, but it was just another roundup of yellow and red cards directed mostly at the Marsh Gibbon bench. The lead could have been extended when Harry M let fly from close to the half way line but the ambitious effort drifted just wide. Jack O also tried to flick Paul's header at goal past the keeper but could only lift it over the bar. As it was it was Marsh who got the next goal to make it 4-3 and set up a nervy finish but Westbury held strong for a deserved 4-3 win.

The final whistle bought another wave of cards for Marsh Gibbon with the unofficial total being 3 red and 6 yellow. Credit must be given to Westbury for not getting involved and letting the football do the talking. Line-up: Harry White, Daz Faulkner, Ricci Campbell, Leon Brightman, George Wilks, Jack White, Neil O'Connell, Paul Campbell (C), Mike Grashoff, Harry Mattock, Jack O'Connell (Sean Larkin, Callum Henderson, Matt Hawes). Goals: Paul (assist Jack O), Neil (assist Mike), Jack O (assist Callum), Sean (assist Mike) MOM: Neil O'Connell

## **Match Report 24th October 2015**

### **Premiership Side Towcester host Division 2 side Westbury**

**Final Score: 8:1 Towcester**

Despite the captain's (Neil O'Connell) optimism about going out and beating the opposition we faced, the fact that Westbury (in division 2) had been drawn against Towcester Town (team that were topping the premiership), Westbury were unable to beat the stronger team.

The manager's team talk rang true with the Westbury team keeping their heads high playing for each other, battling hard and playing some good football. An unfortunately deflection resulted in an own goal (by David Osborne) putting Westbury 3:0 nil down after 12 minutes. From this point on Bernie Dean came to life down the left wing, Jack O'Connell as usual putting in a shift up top and across most of the field we matched Towcester team. It was really good to have Marc Lansdell new signing working the left back position and the right wing of the pitch and to welcome back Danny Fenning (smiling again).

Performances to note from Matt Hawes late impact substitution, deft touch round two Towcester Town's midfield, Jack O'Connell quality header into the top right corner from set piece, and man of the match performance from David Osborne at Centre back tackling, heading and sliding about. Man of the match contender Harry White, Westbury's Goal keeper kept the score respectable with hands like glue stopping several tricky Towcester strikes.

There is no training due to half term and we are home (back to our own league) this Saturday hosting Padbury Reserves. Thank you to Ted for his invaluable consistent input, and to Tubbs who ran the line for 68 minutes. We look forward to seeing our supporters at Twingewick for a 3 O'Clock Kick off.

## **Match Report 31st October 2015**

### **Westbury Host Padbury**

Another win for the Westbury side with a change of Goal keeper George Wilks taking the position and keeping a clean sheet. The team was strengthened by the return of Leon Brightman (man of the match performance) and Paul Campbell. The game was the scrappiest game Westbury had played, not helped by the very sticky heavy pitch due to 3 days of persistent rain, although in the second half the team pushed and pressed hard, starting to return to form moving the ball. Danny Fenning, impact substitution came on after 22 minutes to almost score a wonder goal (volley) which was tipped over the bar and then did score slotting the ball home. Fresh back on the pitch Bernie Dean, sprinted down the wing, with Jack O'Connell passing the ball into his path for Bernie to fire it into the net to make the score 4:0 Westbury. Two goals more from David Osborne, one tap in after Jack O'Connell was crunched by the goal keeper and a 30yrd dipping drive into the top corner. Neil O'Connell nearly scored 4 times – so close Neil. It was great see the team celebrating down the Royal Oak after the match. Training on Tuesday.

## **Match Report 5th December 2015**

### **Westbury Return and Win**

After what seemed forever off... Westbury Football team played again against Marsh Gibbon (this was supposed to be a home fixture) but due to waterlogged/extreme muddy Tingewick pitch, Westbury hosted at Newport Pagnell – Willen Road. The pitch was in extreme good nick and Westbury capitalised on this, keeping the ball down moving in small triangles up the pitch beneath the 70 mile an hour gusts. Contenders for man of the match included George Wilks who has been going from Strength to strength, Paul Campbell who was involved in virtually every move that Westbury made and Jack O'Connell who worked and worked up front never stopping or hounding the back four and scoring 3 goals. Man of the match was awarded to Michael Grasso (celebrated with a pint of cider) who had an exceptional first half scoring 3 goals (controversial deflection/touch off defender) who was always in the action, supporting the strikers and left back and followed up shots.

Another wonder goal from David Osborne from 40 yds added to the total with Paul Campbell deft touch and power strike coming off the lower edge of the bar to make the final score 8:1. Michael Grasso made way for a passionate Bernie Dean at half time and with Michael returning to the pitch to tireless work up and down the flank once again for the last 22 minutes. It was good to see Andrew Green return, taking it round players from left back and Sean Larkin's diligent contribution from right back cannot go unmentioned.

Congratulations to the Westbury side for a commanding win and thanks to Ted who did and continues to do some much behind the scenes to ensure we play. It was good to see supporters cheer us on and look forward to seeing more at our next game which again will not be at Tingewick but Charlton next Saturday – 2 O'clock kick off (and hopefully less windy).

### **Match Report 12th December 2015**

#### **Westbury Vs Hanslope at Charlton**

Westbury continue unbeaten with sterling performance in defence and attack. Two goals from Harry Mattock fierce contender for man of the match and skilful Paul Campbell put Westbury in the driving seat with a final goal from Michael Grasso to seal the win 4:0 Westbury. Hanslope Centre Forwards were nippy and quick and were dealt with by Leon Brightman (back from New York), helped by Sean Larkin, George Wilks and Liam Fitzgerald. Debut from Charlie Haley coming on the wing and getting heavily involved in threading the ball through to Jack O'Connell who set up 3 out of the 4 goals and was voted man of the match by all players involved in the team debrief down the pub. Another contender for MOM was Harry White who kept a clean sheet, helping to organise the defence and calmly deal with 3 well driven accurate shots.

Fitness and passing was clearly an advantage today with the team putting phases of play together and looked like scoring every time the attack got the ball. It was a pleasure to be part of the team ethos where everyone is playing for each other. Our last game of 2015 is against Padbury Reserves at Padbury, we look forward to seeing our travelling fans with us and reminder that Westbury Football boys night out is starting promptly after the game, boys home and changed into shirt and jackets and in Curry house for 6 O'clock. Thanks to Ted and Tubbs/George who as usual put in time and effort to help this club continue run.

### **Match Report 19th December 2015**

#### **Westbury Away against bottom of league Padbury**

Although the team went out to win, it was clear that with several men not at full fitness due to illness/fatigue\* and one centre mid missing completely, it was going to be difficult. Westbury were unable to capitalise on the amount of opportunities the weaker padbury side offered them with (12+) multiple shots missing the goal by significant margin in first half.

With a surplus of men on the bench, the team changed at half time with renewed intensity but were still unable to find the target. Padbury then scored again late in second half. Credit to Westbury on that they didn't stop but couldn't find the net .

Final score two nil padbury who only had two shots on goal! Performances to note man of match contender Charlie Haley who came on in second half to battle and work hard down right wing, mom Liam Fitzgerald who lead fearlessly from the back and Sean Larkin who broke two ribs and carried on playing.

A really good night of team bonding at westbury football night out followed, it was nice to see how smart the lads looked in their shirts and jackets with prize of smartest man going to Matt Hawes \*\*Tubbs. Training to recommence on 5th in new year with first game back on the 10th. We look forward to seeing our fans again in the new year.

\*brought on by festive activities

### **Match Report 23rd January**

#### **Westbury v Newport Pagnell**

The first match for weeks and weeks, Westbury came out keen and enthusiastic working hard for each other at what was respectively an away fixture venue – New Port Pagnell, with Tingewick underwater. Westbury's first goal came from Michael Grasso who combined well with Jack O'Connell, started by Charlie Haley to slot it in the bottom left corner, and second from Neil O'Connell curling effort from which put Westbury in the driving seat. Liam Fitzgerald Centre back turned right back, was massaged carefully by Ted, but was unable to continue and a very worried manager, awaits updates on progress back to recovery. Liam stayed to support and encourage the team from the side line, a game that was extended by 30 minutes (extra-time) due to controversial handball which actually made contact with Tubbs muscular chest and push which no-one other than the referee saw which gifted

Scot two penalties. Highlights from the match: Jack O'Connell solo run through six players, Steve Upstone return to Westbury nominated for Man of the match for his leadership and organisation of the back four, and lost out on MOM by voting for his captain, a very deserved Man of Match - Paul Campbell who put in a for-nominal shift in midfield. After 30 minutes of extra time with no score, it came down to our top five penalty takers who in fine fashion put their strikes firmly in the back of the net, listed in order: Paul Campbell, Michael Grasso, Jack O'Connell, Jack White, and Harry White. The pressure mounted and unfortunately Westbury lost 6:5 on penalties. Next week we are away to Brackley Sports, a local derby and we look forward to seeing Number 1 and Number 2 fans and the rest of our supporters on Saturday for 2'O'clock kick off. Thanks again must be attributed to Ted (Chairman and Secretary), Tubbs and George Wilks who continue to put so much into this club.

## **Match Report 29th January 2016**

### **The big Local Derby Brackley Sports Vs Westbury**

#### **A win for Westbury**

With players from both teams working with each other and or /friends from school, the Brackley fixture attracted a crowd of supporters that were not disappointed with intense derby, with Westbury going 2 nil up with goals from Felix Lowe new signing who back heeled the ball into the net and Jack O'Connell who neatly fired the ball across the goal into the bottom left corner. With the sun and the wind in the second half causing problems for the back four, multiple corners ensued with Brackley coming back into the game scoring early in the second half at the near post and then poking it past Mr Brightman (who put in another sterling performance) who with Harry White out of the goal was the last man on the line – slid in the mud across to the ball and nearly cleared it off the line. A magnificent top corner save from Harry White put him in contention for man of the match, but with Leon coming off for cramp in the dying minutes of the game, Steve Upstone came back on to the pitch into Centre back and with yet another corner beckoning at the brackley end, sprinted up and beating 4 Brackley players in the air, slotted the ball into the net with his head (covered in mud), emerging from the crowd of celebrating westbury team members with huge grin; a well-deserved man of the match nomination and pint in the pub.

The score finished 3:2 Westbury with what in the first half of the game, with multiple missed chances (should have been 7 or 8 nil Westbury) Westbury were severely restricted in their ability to play football with the pitch causing problems with players unable to run or pass the ball efficiently through the mud. Performances to note from Jack White who played extremely well done the right wing, putting in multiple crosses and set pieces, Paul Campbell as usual deserves his place in the team, tireless battling and taking on players with Charlie Haley second half replacement showing great promise taking players on down right wing and getting in behind the Brackley defence. Well done boys, a really good win. Next week we are at home to Wing, the team that narrowly beat us at the start of the season and grudge match that Westbury are looking to rectify. Thanks need to go to our Chairman who turned 65 on Thursday 28th January for his work behind the scenes and we look forward to celebrating his time/work commitment to the Westbury side next Saturday evening. Thanks must also go to Matt Hawes (Tubbs) whose support, commitment and enthusiasm for this team does not go un-noticed. We look forward to seeing our supporters next Saturday with the WAG group numbers growing each week and maybe witnessing the "Upstone slap of the thigh" once more.

## **Match Report 6th February 2016**

### **Westbury 6, Wing 2**

Wing in the past have always been the team that Westbury could not beat normally due to fitness or not starting intense enough in the second half but this Saturday it was not the case. Second from top of the league Wing, started strong but Westbury matched them working hard to get the ball back. Excellent performances from the midfield engine (both nominated for MOM) Neil and Paul and from Westbury wingers who tracked up and down, (Charlie Haley starting on the right and switching with Jack White). It was also great to welcome back Danny Fenning to Westbury side who came on at half time to take the ball past two players on both wings and then defended from right back.

Goals came from Jack White who coming from the right wing fired the ball in the bottom right corner and with Jack O'Connell following up, Westbury went into the lead. Jack O'Connell was also responsible for the next goal with centre forward Felix Lowe slotting the ball home. With the referee, Mr Bell being assessed, he awarded 4 penalties (3 to Westbury) which were calmly dispatched by Captain Paul Campbell (scoring a hat-trick).

There were 5 nominations for man of the match, due to the whole team looking to play good football, playing the conditions and moving the ball under the gale force winds and continuing to run for the full 90. The final and deciding vote came from our Chairman who is to receive his gift for commitment (and 65th birthday) to the club on Tuesday at training this week, nominating Felix Lowe as Man of the match, very much deserved who worked tirelessly up front supporting Jack O'Connell and building a partnership, taking players on and manoeuvring into attacking positions. Final Score Westbury 6, Wing 2.

### **Match Report 13th February 2016**

#### **Westbury vs Silverstone - another great win for Westbury!**

Again as local derbies go, this was big a match with Silverstone starting the game just below Westbury in the league and have been climbing up the table just behind Westbury. As the Chairman, quite aptly stated it is extremely unusual for Westbury to beat Silverstone twice in one season!

With centre back Leon Brightman nominated for MOM as well as the manager, the final vote came down to Liam Fitzgerald (AAM) in Steve Upstone's absence, with Neil O'Connell taking the MOM award and sought after pint. Very deserved performance from a man who normally doesn't get recognition for his tireless battling and commitment to the game; there was air of dissatisfaction in the changing rooms with team members voicing their regrets over our temporary home pitch at Twingewick still under water, with the desire to get back to Westbury high. Despite this, the team emerged from the dressing room, in the cold and wet to put up the nets together and then after the run-down of the team, started the game with high energy and pace, matching the Silverstone side.

With Jack White promised 90 minutes, rotation of the 4 substitutions was going to be tricky, but with good will from all, it was managed with minimal upset and fresh legs boosting the side. With Sean Larkin coming on in the second half back from injury it was good to him sprinting and staying with the nippy right winger (who George Wilks had kept reasonably quiet in the first half), only for Shinna's boots to fall apart and finish the game with his toes sticking out.

Harry Mattock started the game up front with Jack O'Connell and with some deft touches set up many of the Westbury attacks and then rising high above the tall Centre back blasted a header, from corner kick taken by Jack White past the agile Silverstone Keeper to put Westbury in front.

With Charlie Haley nominated for MOM for his first half performance, the second half Michael Grasso going back on to the right wing, started to show his skills chipping over players; With Silverstone coming back and scoring very late in the game by way of an extremely soft goal rolling very slowly into bottom corner, Michael (with great jubilation from the entire team) put Westbury back into the lead with 4 minutes to go with fantastic late run to be passed the ball across the 6 yard box (assist Jack White) and place it firmly past the goal keeper into the bottom left corner.

Thanks go to Daz, back in the team after being taken away by work commitments who ran the line in the first half, George who took up the mantle for the remainder of the second half after Charley Haley came back on. As such we are still awaiting the Chairman's gift although the first instalment was delivered, with first pictures of the new facilities/changing rooms at Westbury new Pavilion shared with the team by the number one fan. Next week we are officially away to Southcott (reminder there is no training due to half term). Well done to the team, another great win.

## **Match Report 20th February 2016**

### **Westbury vs Southcott Away**

The fixture that has been long awaited with Southcott beating Westbury early on in the season (with several soft goals and Westbury chasing the game from the outset) with Southcott sitting second in the league and with the away fixture already attempted weeks before with the Referee Mr Bell calling the game off at half time when Westbury were actually looking on top, high drama was expected with first team taking two of Southcotts star players and Westbury having two centre forward goal scorers. The game started with Westbury struggling to deal with wave upon wave of attack with Southcott overloading from the midfield. With tactical decision to move Liam Fitzgerald into the centre mid, requiring wingers to play as wing backs, the onslaught was stifled with Southcott switching tactics and then overloading the wings. With a heated team talk at half time, the team shuffled with Sean Larking coming on and Felix Lowe being asked to drop deeper to counter the midfield domination.

The pitch although looking reasonable when first inspected, was cut up and became more mud than pitch with players struggling to stay up right whilst running, within 10 minutes of the game commencing. This didn't stop Paul Campbell who seemed to have extra-long legs flicking and tricking Southcott, setting up 1:2s across the pitch. Despite the conditions, the 'new centre forward' for Southcott (6FT 6") managed to score 4 goals (investigation on going), using the ball over the top, against the devastated Westbury side with Leon Brightman expressing his disgust at the referee's decision making.

Westbury came back with a screamer of goal from Harry Mattock and a well-placed corner from Jack White curling into top right corner. New combination Felix Lowe and Harry Mattock combined well on several occasions with another great performance from Michael Grasso and Paul Campbell working hard to get the ball and play make. In post-match deliberation down the 'Three locks' (Pub), Neil O'Connell was given the MOM for his effort and work ethic which makes him Man of the match two weeks on the trot. Neil, pint to come!

Assistant Manager Steve Upstone, back from work commitments drove to the game (25miles +) providing lifts to two defenders and didn't play (still suffering from illness) supported the team from the side lines (thank you Steve) with 10 year Veteran Girlfriend of MOM cheering the Westbury side on. Thanks must be attributed to Tubbs who ran the line extremely well, coming on for only 20minutes at the end game at centre back 'brick wall' fashion and for Liam Fitzgerald for taking up the mantle and having the referee berate him for the height of his flag holding/waving.

News on the Presentation night 'save date' for all diaries Saturday 30th April at Westbury CIU Club, 'Shirt and Jackets' have confirmed with Jenny; Westbury club would like all footballers and wives/girlfriends to come and celebrate the team's season, with potential carry on into Brackley (if the manager can make it).

Next week we host Scot FC, hopefully at Charlton ground and look forward to all team members attending post match debrief down the pub. Score 5:2 Southcott.

## **Match Report 27th February 2016**

### **Westbury take revenge on Scot FC**

Scot FC were the first fixture that Westbury played pre-season and were also drawn in the division cup against Scot FC. In both these fixtures, Scot emerged victorious, but alas it was time for Westbury to shine today. A slow start with Felix Lowe struggling with a neck injury from previous Saturday but played well, Jack O'Connell put in another shift up top. Jack White and Michael Grasso utilised the width of the pitch dragging the Scot defence and midfield out of position, with Jack O'Connell seizing on the opportunity to go one on one with the goal keeper and put into the net from 6yds out. Michael Grasso scored the next goal following up a cross and pinging the ball pin point off the far post. Jack O'Connell scored the third screamer of a goal.

Half time came quickly after this, with the Scot Side coming back out very fired up after their loud team talk. With the wind picking up and blowing against Westbury, a mistake meant Scot were back in the game; 3:1, Scot then luckily from 2 yds out deflected a ricochet past the man on the post into the net. 3:2.

It was at this point that Steve Upstone Assistant Manager, started feel bit edgy with momentum clearly with Scot, and Westbury having to soak up wave after wave of attack. Jack O'Connell running hard, got in behind the back four and with great composure put the ball into the top right corner, curling round the goal keeper from 20 yards out. As such it Jack O'Connell, a very deserved candidate was given man of the match and the sought after pint that goes with it.

Performances to note: Paul Campbell who worked selflessly in the midfield, pulling off multiple drag backs (with the ball) away from Scot players and competing with the very strong Scot number 7; Andy Whitehead goal keeper pulled off 2 amazing saves with the ball clearly deviating in the air, with Leon Brightman out with Sciatic nerve Steve Upstone stepped up to play Centre back working and organising hard, with a very painful gluteus second half tackle preventing a goal scoring opportunity (with claims of tackle of the season) from the Manager. Charlie Haley our youngest player came on at half time and competed down the right side, working hard and fighting to protect the ball, combining well with Jack White and Jack O'Connell.

Thanks must go to George Wilks who made way for Daz and Shinna to start and ran the line this week for the first half and to our Chairman who took up the mantle in the second half despite still fighting illness. It was excellent to see the entire team in the bar after for a pint and the post-match debrief. There is no scheduled match next week but training is on and we are preparing for the following week clash against top of the Towcester Reserves which is likely to be very intense game. We look forward to seeing our supporters and fans, it was good to see Bella from the warmth of the car supporting today as well as the Lisa (wrapped up warmly) cheering the side on. Final Score Westbury 4, Scot FC 2, come on Westbury Football club. We are currently looking forward to seeing the Westbury FC sign mounted on the post at the entrance to the playing field as promised. Thank you to Sue Barrett for organising.

### **Match Report 12th March 2016**

#### **First Draw of the Season Westbury 5: Brackley Sports Reserves 5**

Brackley Sports local derby (Westbury hosted Brackley – home from home) Brackley Sports still seething from the Westbury victory orchestrated by Steve Upstone's late header (and slap of the thigh). With season drawing very quickly (too quickly) to a close, with only 4 games left to play and Tingewick unplayable, our Chairman cleverly arranged for us to play at Charlton this week and for the many supporters (parents and WAGS) it was a goal fest!

Brackley First team's game was called off Saturday morning and as such an influx of Brackley Sport's players were therefore available for reserve team selection. Despite a strengthened opposition, Westbury went 3 nil up, with a well worked penalty from Paul Campbell skipping round two players to be taken down in the box which he then calmly dispatched into the bottom right corner. Harry Mattock leaping above the Brackley defenders put a looping header into the top right corner and well placed strike from Neil O'Connell from 10yds out made it 3. With the significant lead, Westbury conceded 3 very soft goals and the temperament of the game changed with Brackley taking control for the remainder of the first half. Westbury then went 4:3 down with several unforced errors and lapses of concentration from the defence. Jack O'Connell put Westbury level 4:4 with fantastic goal but the half finished with Brackley scoring again going off the pitch leading 5:4.

A half time talk and a change in defence, Liam Fitzgerald moving out to right back, made a significant impact playing right back and right wing after an altercation with centre forward meant Westbury were down to 10 men with Jack White going off the pitch. Man of match nomination Steve Upstone came onto play centre back and Darren Faulkner taking up the mantle from George at left back fighting hard to stop Brackley attack.

Down to 10 men and chasing the game, rather than folding under the pressure, Westbury side stepped up and it was clear that Westbury was the stronger side (finishing the second half dominating Brackley and scoring the only goal (a bundle over the line). With the points shared, it was a fair result with both teams coming off feeling satisfied and dissatisfied at the same time. Performances to note: Sean Larkin came onto the left wing, to showcase his talents to his watching supporters, putting the ball into the net only to be disappointed to be called on a push (wish according to Neil O'Connell was one of the softest pushes seen all game). Man of the match nomination Charlie Haley (4 votes) who battled hard down the left wing, was pipped by Harry Mattock with 5 votes, one of the best performances from Harry we have seen with some fantastic touches and play making.

Thanks go to resident photographer, Lisa who took multiple photos of the team in action in preparation for sharing on presentation evening. It was lovely to have Michael Grasso struggling with illness, come and support the team from the sidelines with Bella. Thanks go to Darren Faulkner and to Matt Hawes for their contributions off the pitch (running the line) and thanks to our Chairman and Tubbs who ensured that the facilities (mopped and cleaned) were immaculate for Charlton to play.

Presentation evening is now confirmed on 30th April at Westbury CIU Club, 7:00 aperitifs with sit down dinner at 7:30. Dress code for the evening is smart: Jacket and shirt. We have been very lucky to have professional catering company Boycott Farm whose food is well respected in the community and who have given us a really good deal of £10 per person. We look forward to welcoming all Westbury supporters, fans and players to our celebration of our season. Thanks must go to our sponsors who will be attending and the president of the club who has agreed to present prizes/awards.

### **Match Report 20th March 2016**

#### **Westbury vs Scot FC Final Score: 2:3**

For those supporters/fans that have read the title, you would think that we are always playing SCOT FC, this is the third time we have come up against them (fourth time if you count first pre-season Friendly debut under Upstone and Osborne Management) and as such the intensity between each of the teams has just escalated. With Tingewick still unplayable (standing joke now), the Chairman Mr Grainge negotiated a pitch reversal and the team arrived at SCOT FC (with Neil and Paul still getting lost) keen to play the SCOT team which during pre-match consultation their manager Jordan, he confided that he had fielded his strongest side to date.

Westbury was missing several key elements of the team with Brightman pulling out early Saturday morning due to illness, Lowe also struggling with illness and Harry White out with Broken ribs and chest infection, George Wilks bravely took on Goal keeper duties and had a rather successful first half. Michael Grasso has been unavailable/ill for previous two weeks and coming on at half time looking for work, hassling hard down the left wing winning key battles and supporting the defence.

To quote a cliché, it was a game of two halves, with Westbury on top for first half and reversed in the second half. Harry Mattock who was keen to get involved and looking for work, put Westbury in the lead, with well driven strike smashing the ball down into the ground bouncing it from 15 yards out into the bottom left corner. With Osborne taking free kicks, and picking out Westbury attack, Jack O'Connell showed his true class and touch, taking the ball down and away from the waiting defenders to be defied on several times by the agile Scot keeper. It was clear that O'Connell was not going to be deterred with a deft flick over the defender and then a lob over the goal keeper put Westbury into the lead to the jubilation of the Westbury side, with the team leaving the field 2:1 up at half time.

Injuries definitely played their part during the game, with Westbury comparing injuries during half time, with SCOT managing to bruise Mattock, Neil O'Connell, took the toenail off Upstone, with Sean Larkin having to limp off field with 20 minutes to go and Darren Faulkner spending 5 minutes on the floor unable to breath after a deliberate elbow in the ribs. With this amount of physical play, it was refreshing to have Matt Hawes (Tubbs) come onto the pitch and use his considerable strength in the midfield, stopping several attacks in their tracks.

The second half, Westbury didn't seem to be able to maintain possession and with supporters commenting on Paul Campbell work ethic during the second half, the defence dealt with wave after wave of attack which inevitably lead to two very soft goals, with Westbury chasing the game for the final 20 minutes. The Man of the match pint with the largest amount of votes to date, Jack O'Connell was celebrated in the clubhouse, well deserved Jack, with entire team there for chips and sausages. Westbury is a great team.

Thanks must of course be attributed to Tubbs who valiantly ran the line for 68minutes and to our travelling fans who stood in the very cold conditions. There are two games remaining, Yardly Gobion and Towcester Town, both huge games and grudge matches with Towcester physically intimidating (rather than playing football) and the previous Gobion match resulting in the highest amount of bookings seen by Westbury FC (all for Gobion players).

Training is on Tuesday (last one before we have two weeks off for Easter Holidays) with our final training session on 12th April. Presentation evening money needs to be collected in, please can you bring it to training.

### **Match Report 9th April 2016**

#### **Westbury Win 5:2**

Penultimate League Game of the season, Brightman, Upstone, Fitzgerald and Faulkner not available, Westbury started the game with a very attacking formation. This resulted in an overload in attack and Westbury scoring 2 goals, one from flick off Jack O'Connell's head at the near post from a corner taken by Charlie Haley, for gentle tap in from Osborne five yards out and another well worked goal from Striker Harry Mattock (taking his tally to 9). Michael Grasso and Charlie Haley (our two attacking wingers), who were forced to track back up and down for the first 35 minutes, with the midfield bolstered with 3 players, with capable Felix Lowe coming back into the side. This meant on the counter attack, Westbury looked very stretched in defence. With two clearances not made, Yardley Gobion were back in the game 2:2. With Darren Faulkner arriving 5 minutes after kick off, options were then available to change the game plan plugging the gaps in the defence – going back to more solid 4,4,2.

With this platform to build on, and Neil going back into his usual midfield role (man of the match this week) Jack O'Connell provided Westbury with the lead once more and then five minutes later threaded a pass across the box through to Michael Grasso who fired the ball under the outstretched arms of the diving goal Keeper. A final piece of genius from Harry Mattock and Jack O'Connell, sealed the game, with a free kick 10 yards outside of the penalty box, Harry fed the ball through a gap for Jack O'Connell to run on to and strike firmly into the net. It was great to welcome back Harry White, who despite still feeling pain from his ribs, completed the 90 minutes and was a strong MOM contender with 4 fantastic goal defying saves flicking the ball onto the bar, diving across the goal and blocking.

Final Score 5:2.

**News: Westbury are through to the semi-final of the Cup against Padbury. Training is recommencing this Tuesday with the final training session will be on the 19th April.**