



WALKING FOOTBALL GOUP



NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1 - FEBRUARY 2025

It is two months since the Committee was formed and timely to issue our first newsletter to bring everyone up to speed on actions and plans.

Your Committee- Paul Tucker (Head of WF), Martyn Williams, Karen Millington & Colin Barnes will meet regularly and welcome your constructive comments and suggestions. IT IS YOUR GROUP.

Aims- inclusivity, offering everyone the opportunity to participate in regular training sessions, friendly fixtures and festivals, leagues, socials and well-being events all under the name of Portishead Town Football Club.

Competitive Matches- we have applied to Gloucester and Somerset FAs to enter >50s & >60s teams in leagues for season 2025/26 and will know the outcome in the next 3 months or so. We are already participating in the Somerset FA trial >65s round of friendly fixtures

Team Managers- >50s Paul Tucker. We are seeking volunteers for >60s, >65s & >70s groups and Paul will happily provide further information if you are interested in taking on one of these roles.

Registrations- we have asked everyone to complete a simple form and pay a one-off £10 fee to cover some administration costs and establish a WF Fund. Just a small number of forms have not yet been returned so please put it at the top of your "to do" list so we can complete the process of registering everyone with the Football Association.

Training Sessions- SUNDAY morning will continue on the 3G pitch at Gordano School or the blue astro pitch if available (usually in school holidays). From May through to the end of August will play on the new PTFC 3G pitch with showers and the clubhouse open to encourage post game socialising. Notifications will be posted on the WhatsApp & Spond. WEDNESDAY evening training will be a permanent arrangement, open to everyone, but your support is essential to meet minimum playing numbers. Notifications will be posted on WhatsApp & Spond. The cost for all training sessions will remain at £5. Finally, a plea on behalf of session organisers, please indicate your availability as soon as possible.

Footwear- PTFC 3G pitch requires moulded stud boots. As we hope to be playing more often on this excellent surface purchasing boots would be a good investment. The Club does have a box of boots available to use when playing, to be returned at the end of the session.

Knowing the Rules- once you have submitted your Registration form you will be registered with Somerset FA and given a FAN – that's an FA Number not an item for wafting to keep you cool. Everyone is asked to undertake the Somerset FA online introduction to refereeing course. Simply log in with your email & FAN falearning.thefa.com/enrol/index.php?id=2091

All our training sessions and most friendly fixtures and festivals will be played under FA laws/rules.

As a Club we have decided to also register with the Walking Football Association (WFA) as this provides additional insurance cover and other playing opportunities

WFA and FA laws/rules differ and prior to any games under WFA laws/rules we will ensure players are aware of such variances, however common to both are walking and no physical contact.

At this point we just want everyone to have a sound understanding of FA laws/rules and, of course, a referee's decision is final

Medical Issues- your registration forms provide us with important information that will be made available to session organisers and team managers when you are participating.

As an FA affiliated Club we are required to have a detailed Medical Emergency Plan and this is currently being formulated in conjunction with PTFC.

We are also planning to offer and encourage everyone to participate on a short CPR training session.

A First Aid kit will be available at all sessions and games.

Diary Dates-

- 6th March >50s Friendly Festival at Street. Although described as >50s, most participants are >60s. Notification is on Spond.
- 6th March Curry Night at Ghandi Restaurant. Notification is on WhatsApp.
- 18th March >65s v Clevedon (Yellows) in the Somerset FA trial event. Notification on Spond in due course.
- 18th March next PTFCWF Committee meeting.
- 20th March Somerset FA referees' course at Clevedon. Anyone interest will probably gain a place even at this late stage. Speak with a committee member.

Finances & Sponsors- as the PTFCWF group we have our own ring-fenced funds within the Club accounts. Whilst the Club is committed to support our plans it is our aim to be financially self-sufficient from session fees (net), registration fees other income opportunities.

We are very fortunate to already have shirt sponsorship from Aspire and JP Carpentry – grateful thanks to Rod Sowden and Josh Williams respectively. It would be good to enhance our kit with PTFC badged shorts and training tops so if anyone has any contacts who might be willing to offer some funding let us know. This would be a good boost.

Editorial- hopefully this newsletter is informative and clarifies our actions and directions. Feedback is most welcome and further Newsletter will be issued on a timely basis.