

“Chilblain’s” Comments.



I was appointed as club Chaplain at the end of September, since which time AFC have suffered from some poor results and a slide down the league. I can assure you that this is purely coincidence. I have been present at most of the home matches and the difference between winning and losing is a very fine margin. We have suffered from a spate of injuries to key players and Chris Tracey has had to make some difficult selection decisions. But as the year drew to a close we began to see confidence returning to the team with an unbeaten run of four games perhaps pointing to better things in 2013.

A football club will always be judged primarily by results but that is by no means the sum total of AFC. There are many people who will never don a yellow shirt but who are, nevertheless, integral to the identity and success of the club. The groundsman who has managed to provide a good playing surface despite atrocious weather. The commentator who keeps us up to date with statistics and information. The committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the club and its finances. We must not forget the administrator who answers the 'phone with charm and expertise. There are the people who serve the refreshments, the unsung heroes who scurry off to retrieve the ball when it is despatched into the surrounding trees, the stewards who man the gates, the physio who is at hand to patch up wounded warriors, the bar staff who dispense strong beverages to soothe disappointed supporters or to celebrate a win. Also behind the scenes are those who maintain the web site, write reports for the press, clean the clubhouse, launder the kit and stock and man the club shop.

Then there are the fans. I am impressed with the good humour and knowledge of the game shown by the AFC supporters. Partisan they may be but they are never violent or vindictive. Recently I had the misfortune to stand among a group of visiting supporters and I admit to being very uncomfortable with their biased attitude towards officials and opponents and their 'colourful' turn of phrase. Chris Olley, who died late in the year, was a shining example of a supporter and servant of our club who will be sadly missed.

We are all involved in some way or another in the project which is AFC Sudbury. As we enter a new year let us stick with it, in the confident hope that the second half of the season is going to be better than the first. As my Boss says, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace".

Yours sincerely Brian Stenner (*Club Chaplain*)

P.S. Why Chilblain? Some short sighted ex-police colleague misread the lettering on my club jacket, so "Chilblain" it is. Thanks Alan!!!!