

EXETER CITY BLOG

Good evening everyone,

What a great pleasure and privilege to be able to welcome all our supporters back to competitive football. We also welcome Exeter City FC, Matt Taylor Manager, directors and players. It's always an enjoyable experience to host them at The Optima Stadium. All of you will remember Ollie Watkins who is now playing at the top of his game and profession who was on loan to us a few seasons ago. We have two of their previous players in our squad who will probably be featuring tonight and need no introduction - Jason Pope and Jacob Jagger Cane.

We have all so missed the beautiful game. You will have noticed all the social distancing marks have been repainted on the floor in the ground. Please try to keep to the 30 people in a group rule. We know it's difficult but unfortunately we have to abide by it.

As will have been seen at the Charity match on Sunday we have tried to ensure everyone remains safe, supporters; staff; players and coaches. We apologise for the slight inconvenience this causes you all at the present time. Hopefully after the 19th July we will be able to mix freely outside and indoors.

More details of the development will be given as we go through the preseason matches.

Our Southern League fixtures should be announced on 16 July. Merthyr Town FC are returning after a season totally void because of Welsh Gov't Covid restrictions and, Kings Langley FC, a London based Club have been moved sideways from Southern League Central. That gives us 21 home and away matches. The Board have agreed we should enter both the Southern League Cup and Somerset FA Premier Cup this season in addition to the FA Cup and FA trophy. Our Ladies Team have also entered the FA Women's Cup.

The next match is also at home to Cardiff City on Tuesday 13th July at 7.45pm. Tickets can still be purchased for this match on line from the Club Website.

What a great win for England against Germany last Tuesday evening, it certainly lifted morale for the whole country. I'm sure our team will emulate this many many times this coming season.

The Board hope you thoroughly enjoy the match this evening.

Come on you Seagulls!

Richard

380 words

CARDIFF CITY BLOG

Welcome to this our second home preseason of five and a big welcome to Cardiff City FC, their management, Directors and supporters. At the time of writing it is not known if Mick McCarthy will be travelling with the team. We have very strong links with the club having negotiated loan players from the U23 squad. Lloyd Humphries is still with us and you will have seen from his interview on our FaceBook page recently that he is really raring to go as are all our players. Last season we had James Waite and in previous seasons, Dan Martin and Connor Davies. All those players enjoyed their stay with us.

Our squad is largely as last year whilst welcoming back Jason Pope and bringing in Jordan Bastin from Tiverton Town. My responsibility is to get players signed once the management team have agreed terms with them and resigned on new contracts those whose contracts have expired. This can sometimes mean meeting in gymnasiums, on the Motorway service stations or in their full time occupation areas.

International Clearance for these and other players coming from Wales and Scotland can be very problematical in registering them with the English FA in a timely manner. In recent seasons we have also signed players from Malta, France, USA and Poland which have also taken time. The U19s squad are playing in the National League and U18s in Weston Counties Floodlight Youth Cup.

The pitch is looking in superb condition and we must congratulate our groundsman Bob Flaskett for providing such quality. Many of our preseason Football League opponents come here because of the quality of play we provide and, the great pitch.

The first away match is at Frome Town on Friday 16th July 7.30pm

We welcome a Bristol City IX Saturday 24th July KO 3pm Tickets can still be purchased for this match on line from the Club Website.

321 words