

**OUR SEASON**

**Simon Damery, Chairman, Amersham Town Football Club**

This has been a mixed season for the club. On the pitch our first team started off the season in Division One of the Spartan South Midlands League as a newly promoted team under Mani Asare. There is no doubt that we found the higher level challenging and, at Christmas, were lying one place above the relegation zone with thirteen points from eighteen games.

Ryan Luke then took over as first team manager assisted by Tommee Seaton. It is never easy coming into a struggling club half way through the season when many good players are fully committed elsewhere. Ryan did a great job in assembling an enthusiastic and committed group of players. Although it would be stretching a point to say that we moved sharply up the table we gained twenty one points from the remaining twenty games which was sufficient to ensure that we were safe from relegation. What pleased me most was the strong spirit within the team. Meanwhile our Sunday team and Veterans team continued to flourish.

Ryan has outlined his views below so I will not repeat them. I will, however, stress that, as a fully amateur club, we offer excellent facilities. We have invested heavily in recent years and, as a result, we have a pitch which is the envy of many local teams together with another pitch for friendlies and warm up sessions. Our changing rooms are comparatively new and we are seeking to rebuild the older half of our clubhouse to provide a modern venue.

The committee which I chair aims to continue to improve the facilities whilst providing support for all our teams and remaining debt free as a club. As far as the first team is concerned the committee allows the manager time and space to run the team as he thinks best.

So we enter the next campaign with considerable optimism. We have the nucleus of a good side and Ryan and Tommee will have the close season to develop it further. We have good facilities and a supportive committee. Our ambition has to be to finish in the top six of the Division and to qualify for the FA Cup.

Come and join us, as a player or as a spectator! We look forward to meeting everyone in the new season.

**Ryan Luke, Manager Amersham Town first team.**

As the season draws to a close this has been very up and down campaign on a personal level for both myself and the club. After my first year in management it’s everything I had hoped for in terms of achieving my targets, starting with Berkhamsted’s development team. We were unbeaten at Christmas, in two cup semi-finals and top of the league.

Amersham then gave me a call, inviting me to come has first team manager with one goal, namely to save the club from relegation. This was undoubtedly challenging with only four players staying at the club and the team in severe danger of dropping down a division.

I looked upon it as an opportunity to show what I could do. I knew it would take time to get everything sorted in the way I wanted. But a period of six games unbeaten at a key stage of the season, taking a massive fourteen point in the process, was the trigger which would ultimately keep us up.

The climax came with one game to spare as safety was achieved with a massive win in a tight game against Codicote, who were also struggling. Now we look forward to next season with considerable optimism.

Finally, I would like to thank all the committee members supporters and, especially, the Chairman, Simon, who gave me a great opportunity to lead the club to safety and hopefully far beyond.

**Note:** For further information contact:

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