WESTERN LEAGUE

LOWDOWN



Club Meetings

Every other year we host a series of club meetings. With our new sponsor on Board and with new Directors in roles to support clubs be the best they can be now is that idea time to engage with you all.

Our Club "roadshows" will be across 4 nights and regionally based.

25th November at Buckland
5th December at Wellington
9th January at Bitton
3rd February at Wells City

It will be a relaxed informal evening with presentations, opportunity of feedback, networking with other clubs, league officials and Jewson representatives and refreshments provided on arrival. We open doors for networking at 6.45pm.

Grow your Club your Way.....

The FA Club Programme allows clubs to grow their club and be better at what they do whether that's facilities, social media, marketing, governance and finance

The FA have recruited an amazing team of FA Club Consultants with vast knowledge and expertise of the game. The FA Club Consultants have years of experience leading and operating football clubs at all different levels.

You'll be able to benefit from their transferable business skills and most importantly their passion for football.

Take a look at the FREE RESOURCES
https://www.englandfootball.com/participate/leagues-and-clubs/The-Club-Programme

Jewson Store opening

To seal the deal on a new three-year partnership League Officials were invited to the newly refurbished Bridgwater Store for its official opening. Jewson have changed the look of their stores and branding to reflect them being part of the Stark group. In store you will find meeting rooms, a coffee/chat area for trades folk and a fresher set up enabling you to view the products rather than a front facing counter.

John Pool - with a rather large pair of scissors formally opened the Store accompanied by Regional Marketing Director Andy Jordan.



PROJECT SOLUTIONS

Looking for Funding.... We know a man that can...



When Charles Dickens penned, what is regarded by many as one of the finest opening lines in literary history, 'it was the best of times, it was the worst of times', he would have had no idea how relevant those words would be 165 years later in relation, to the then fledgling sport, of football!

I believe, it sums up very well the state of the non-league game in England today. There are certainly positive initiatives being introduced at all levels of the games but equally there are attitudes and practices that need to be addressed and, where necessary, changed!

Having dedicated most Saturday's and many other days as well since the late 1960's to club football through either playing, watching or in one form or another of administration when I retired from full time work, I realised my footballing values had changed. So, it seemed a natural fit when the opportunity to become an independent panel member of the Premier League Stadium Improvement fund arose.

The chance to pull together both my work and football experiences in support of the bigger picture and not just one club holds is very appealing to me.
My role with PLSF is a checks and balances one. As an independent panel member I have complete autonomy to question, reject or support higher value club bids and to comment on the general business of the fund from a neutral position.

Sitting on the panel, alongside influential and knowledgeable football people has afforded me a greater understanding of the philosophies behind the Stadium Accreditation scheme and the willingness of the Premier League to financially support men's and women's clubs throughout the EFL and National League system.

The added insight I have gained through my involvement with the PLSF was partly the reason I felt able to join the Jewson Western League board of directors.

Accepting the newly created role of development director is not something I would have entertained if I were not sure that the new role will be beneficial to the clubs, sponsors, and the league itself.

The job will primarily focus on finding ways to help our current clubs develop at a speed and in a way that suits them and ensures they have a sustainable future.

Equally important will be to play a key part in ensuring the league delivers the levels and type of exposure that our sponsors, Jewsons, need to meet their targets. As well, I will be looking to identify new business opportunities that will deliver an even stronger competition than we all currently enjoy.

Its certainly not going to be an easy job or even one that has a real structure to it because every club is unique which means that although one clubs issue is like another, the individual solutions might well be completely different!

Having worked previously in similar development roles I am very aware of the sort of challenges I will be facing but I want everyone to understand that I will be working hard to ensure that the league and its clubs are in the right place to embrace the future with confidence.

Come along and share your projects, ask for support with funding or just say hello to Dave Wilkinson the NEW Leagues Development Director at the Club Meetings.....



SAFEGUARDING –

The FA Safeguarding Team has built on previous workshops with Step 4 and above to build a bespoke safeguarding workshop with scenarios for our level. This is essential training for everyone but especially those in the Adult Welfare Officer Role. There will be 4 workshops held online for the Western League, one on November 24 and three in January 13th.23rd 30th. Most clubs have signed up but if you want others to attend please contact secretary.westernleague@gmail.com

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

ACCREDITED CLUB
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Application window now open



Celebrity Podcast

Did you catch our celebrity podcast with Tony Incenzo ?? Tony is famously known for talksport and Non league paper (amongst many others) journalistic skills. He featured in Episode 14 of the Podcast and he talks about his passion for Groundhopping and what a groundhopper might appreciate as he takes his journey around the grounds - We note from his twitter account that he also recently attended a Sturminster Newton game!

Download the interview from www.westernleague.co.uk/news

Its beginning to look alot like ... Christmas

Here's the **LOWDOWN** of all your Boxing Day Games.....

Brixham V Ivybridge KO 11am
Saltash V Torpoint KO 11am
St Blazey V AFC St Austell KO 11am
Nailsea & Tickenham v Clevedon 12.30pm
Welton Rovers V Shepton Mallet 1pm
Brislington V Portishead 3pm
Ilfracombe V Barnstaple 3pm
Paulton Rovers V Oldland Abbotonians 3pm
Street V Bridgwater United 3pm
Wellington V Buckland 3pm

Odd Down V Radstock Town KO 12pm
Hengrove Athletic v Mendip Broadwalk 12.30pm
Calne Town v Devizes Town 1pm
Longwell Green V AEK Boco 1pm
Wells City V Cheddar 1pm
Bristol Telephones V Keynsham Town 3pm
Gillingham V Sturminster Newton 3pm
Warminster Town V Bradford Town 3pm

We like to wish everyone connected with the Jewson Western League a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Supporting MIND

Our very own Podcast host was MC for an evening with Razor Ruddock - held at Wembdon CC.

Ian supports MIND across the region with bucket collections at our football clubs and his work was recognised with an invitation to host another fundraiser.

A very “adult” evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone raising £6508 for MIND in Somerset.

League requirements for First Aid .....

There is a requirement for all clubs to have an individual with the Emergency First aid in Football qualification (EMFAiF) - this is not to be confused with the level 1 course - Introduction to first aid (IMFAiF).

The FA provide Courses and although availability can be challenging the League has stated that all clubs need someone with this qualification by December 31st.

Should you be without qualified personnel on match days you can with permission use the opponents First Aid person.

Courses can be found here https://learn.englandfootball.com/courses/medical/emergency-first-aid-in-football

Please ensure that your club is compliant for December 31st deadline

World Mental Health Day



Back in October both our Finance Director Dave Brammer and Communications Officer Ian Nockolds joined Dan James who walked 55 laps of Somerset Cricket club pitch on World Mental Health day in aid of MIND in Somerset. This wellbeing walk raised £5714.

Support Rainbow Laces

The Jewson Western League is proud to stand alongside Stonewall in promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion within grassroots football, as part of our ongoing commitment to creating a welcoming environment for all.

As part of its support for the 2024/25 Rainbow Laces campaign, the League is encouraging clubs and communities to embrace LGBT+ acceptance, creating a more inclusive atmosphere both on and off the pitch.
In support of the campaign, clubs across the League will display Rainbow Laces branding at fixtures during the designated matchweek. This could include rainbow pitch flags and ball plinths as well as players wearing rainbow laces and captains sporting rainbow armbands.
The initiative will also extend beyond the matches themselves, with clubs using their social media channels to raise awareness and celebrate the importance of inclusion in football.

The Jewson Western League believe that football is for everyone, and we want to make sure that all fans and players, regardless of their background or identity, feel welcome in our league.

We wish Shirehampton FC all the best for their imminent floodlight installation at Penpole Lane.....

Take me home ... Bristol Road..

Portishead Town moved back to Bristol Road on the 16th November. Having had a nomadic lifestyle for several months they return to a fabulous artificial surface at the Bristol Road site. With a strong youth set up and women's teams Portishead were able to secure funding for the new surface.





Photos courtesy of Ollie Riddoch Photography



League Grant Scheme

The League are offering a grant scheme. Whether you are looking for facility improvements, or improving ways to generate income we have a simple form for you to complete to tell us about your project.

The Grant scheme also makes the most of our partnership with Jewson so don't forget to involve them with your plans to get the maximum exposure and support with improvements.

Grant form available on the website....

First come basis..

Coming up (JANUARY EDITION) .....

Hear from former Western League HELSTON ATHLETIC and their trials and tribulations of being a Southern League Club ...

Shirehampton FC take us on a journey back to Penpole Lane.

Lets talk promotion and relegation - with all you need to know about going up or moving out...

If you have a news item worthy of a feature please get in touch
secretary.westernleague@gmail.com


JEWSON
EVERYTHING
YOU NEED FOR
YOUR PROJECT
BUILDING MATERIALS
TIMBER TOOL HIRE
LANDSCAPING
Tell us your local Western League
Football Club to receive preferential rates.
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