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## WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of everyone on the *FGIF* team, welcome back! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break and are now looking forward to another exciting new season. Incredibly this will be our twentieth campaign covering football at all levels of the pyramid. Where does the time go?

I'm sure, like me, you have been following the feast of televised sport over the last few weeks. It was must-see action all the way covering some of the most exciting the events of the sporting calendar. Without doubt the lycra-fest that is the Tour de France was one of the most absorbing road races in recent years; Wimbledon heralded a young new champion and (at the time of writing) the England cricket team are still in with a shout of drawing the Ashes - it's typical that rain has spoiled their chances of lifting the famous urn! As I speak The Lionesses look to have booked their place in the all-important knock-out stages of the Women's World Cup football tournament currently taking place in Australia and New Zealand. There's certainly still plenty to play for in the coming weeks. You can keep up with all the latest by logging on to the competition website via the link posted at the top of our home page. With the World Athletics Championships from Budapest just around the corner it will certainly round off a Summer to remember!

After all that sofa-surfing it will be nice to get off the settee and back on the road (or rail) again to watch some live football and of course tick off some more new grounds along the way. With so much to look forward to it goes without saying that here at *FGIF* we would love to share your news, reports and ground pictures. If you have been to see a great game or visited a cracking little ground that you think might be of interest to other fans, then please get in touch. From roped off pitch to international stadium, it doesn't matter, you can send us an e-mail, use our IMS service or even send a tweet. I really hope that you all have a great season wherever you go.

And finally, I would like to publicly express my gratitude to my fellow contributors who have worked so tirelessly over the years to make *FGIF* such a successful project. Without your continued dedication and loyalty, we certainly wouldn't have reached this incredible milestone. So, a big thank you goes out to every member of the team!

Steve Dobson RIP

Sadly, the new campaign begins without super hopper, Spurs fan and *FGIF* contributor Steve Dobson who passed away suddenly during the course of last season. Also known for compiling his outstanding football blog *Pie & Mushy Peas* over a number of years, Herts based Steve was an avid hopper attending matches at many new grounds in between watching his beloved Spurs. Links to his reviews which have featured on our site have inspired hoppers to follow in his footsteps after reading his superbly written articles. A lovely bloke who will be sorely missed. From everyone at *FGIF* I would like to remind his family and friends that he is not forgotten. Incidentally, Harlow Town FC intend to pay a tribute to Steve at their forthcoming home match on Saturday 5th August v Basildon Town. It is assumed that it will be something like a minute's silence or applause before kick-off. RIP Simple Pieman.

Martin 31/07/23