The Power of Trust

I love a good home win, don’t you? And the win we had on Saturday against Exeter was certainly a good home win. One thing I noticed as the game unfolded was the sheer amount of detail that had gone into elements of the game that eventually helped to secure us the win - pressing from the front, the way set-pieces were directed, the mobility of the midfield, all helped us to impose our approach on to the game rather than merely trying to stifle or stop Exeter. It was a joy to see such unity of plan and purpose in the team and then between the team and the crowd, particularly at moments such as Sam Foleys yellow card.

After the game, the mood on social media was one of unity too, between fans and between fans and players too. It’s not always been that way over the last few years, even over the last couple of months. It’s amazing what a few wins and a decent unbeaten run an do for helping everyone to get together and get behind what everyone is trying to achieve for our football team and for our community.

All of that is probably true, and also gloriously, undeniably stuffed full of football cliche after football cliche. I’ve been given pause for thought since the Exeter game though about why it is that we as fans of our club, or we as family members, or part of our workforce, or part of our society, find it so much easier to be united when things are going well. When things are going well, you need to stay focused on the goals that you have, sure. You need to keep working hard together, yes. Build and re-shape plans to give you the best chance of success, certainly. But actually, it’s fairly likely that a good run is going to keep going because you have trust and confidence in yourself, or the people you need to rely on to help to make your hope a dream a reality.

What’s been challenging me since the Exeter game is the question of why ‘we’ (whoever ‘we are) often don’t stick together when things are going against us.

‘You will keep in perfect peace

all who trust in you,

all whose thoughts are fixed on you!’ (Isaiah 26:3 NLT)

When things are going for us, it’s hard to feel peaceful, comfortable, content, but when they aren’t, we see problems, sometimes where there are problems and sometimes where there aren’t. We want explanations, things to be fixed, made better. But have you noticed that, quite often, we strike out on our own when we do this? Relationships fracture, we moan more, we isolate ourselves. It’s the stronger thing to stick together, to keep pushing forward. When I find things going against me in life, I like to moan and think the problem is too big for me and so I must be a failure, but when I look back to God, I know that if I choose to trust Him, He will keep me going, keep me in perfect peace.

So, whether we win or lose tonight, I want to challenge all of us, keep together, keep trusting, keep spreading peace. It’s amazing what that can do not just for the club, but for our community as a whole.

Up the Cobblers!