

The Dilly Dong Bell and Horsham FC

The Dilly Dong Bell is the first book by sports broadcaster and analyst **Lee Wellings**.

It's about sport, society and life. A small boy who falls in love with the game, but in three decades reporting on sport around the world saw it lose its way. Through greed, mismanagement and a lack of ethics.

Reconnection of the joy of sport came with a move to West Sussex, and Horsham FC. What sport should be. For the community, a wonderful place to come and watch good football, without the hype and questionable priorities that too often surrounds the big clubs.

In Chapter 14, *The Magic Cup*, there is reference to Horsham FC's part of the world's greatest cup competition, the FA Cup. The chapter is about how football should provide opportunity for all. The chance to dream.

In Chapter 30, the final Chapter, *Home*, Lee describes the emotional experience of following Horsham, from a day at the ground to away days, paying tribute to the people, sights and sounds that immediately led him to love the club. Including the famous *Lardy Army*.

This excerpt is about our promotion play-off triumph in 2019:

"In Lancing on the Sussex coast. At a railway crossing the barriers are up, the crossing is clear, and there is a man on the track. He is wearing a yellow all-in-one suit. And holding up a giant flag. On the flag is Elvis. Wearing a Horsham FC shirt. I can't help falling in love with you. The clouds gather and the rain falls. And it's unforgiving. We are soaked through to our marrow. Cold, wet shoes squelching, a chill in the bones. And the ball hits the net. The yellow and greens are promoted. Going up in the world. And the opportunity to rise further....."

The book tackles, racism, misogyny, sportswashing, cheating, corruption, greed and more. It demonstrates how sport reflects society. But it is ultimately intended to be warm and uplifting. And Horsham FC are cast, rightly, as heroes. What football should be.

As also highlighted by Lee's twitter thread in January 2022:

https://twitter.com/LeeW_Sport/status/1487168685747937280