

Newton Abbot Mayor congratulates Buckland Athletic on FA Vase performance

NEWTON Abbot Mayor Cllr Mike Joyce has congratulated Buckland Athletic FC on reaching the fifth round of the FA Vase.

The club, formed in 1977 as a juniors-only outfit playing in the Torbay Pioneer League, has since gone on to enjoy success on a wider stage.

It now plays in the 130-year-old Western Football League where the men's first team battle it out in the Premier Division.

One of their best performances in the current season was a 5 – 0 away win against Bridport last September.

In February Cllr Joyce and his wife travelled with the team and supporters to Newport Pagnell for the FA Vase match which resulted in a 1 -1 draw, going 4 – 3 Pagnell's way after penalties.

Speaking after the match Cllr Joyce said: 'It was an honour to represent our town, our councillors and officers in Newport Pagnell.

'A crowd of more than 1,200 people enjoyed the match and I'd say Buckland Athletic had a good 80 per cent of the play in the first half and came close on scoring on many occasions.

'The second half saw the resumption of the spirited play by our team and due to an error by the home goalkeeper, Buckland Athletic were able to take advantage and score, sending the travelling supporters into a frenzy of excitement.

'Newport Pagnell came back at Buckland throughout the second half to look for an equaliser and it was well into stoppage time that unfortunately, following a corner, one arrived.

'Eight minutes of stoppage time was played - a long time for any team to be under constant pressure – and constantly was the home side was looking for that winning goal.

'But it didn't come for either side and so it was the game went to penalties.

'Sadly Buckland Athletic lost 3-4 in the shootout.

'The Mayoress and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Newport Pagnell, the result was not what we would have wanted but there is no mistaking that Buckland Athletic did themselves and our town of Newton Abbot proud.

'The Mayoress and I thank them for the opportunity to be part of it.'



Cllr Joyce presenting a certificate of achievement to Buckland FC's Nigel Holmes (Co-Chairman) and Paul Froude (Team Manager) at the meeting of the Town Council on 9th March.