**WICK FOOTBALL CLUB HISTORY**

As old photographs will show Wick had a village football team long before a group of young local lads formed Wick CA in 1971. Unable to play at Oldbury Lane at that time, they played their first couple of seasons on a patch of land off Naishcombe Hill, as Oldbury Lane was home to Wick Athletic (whose history we can trace back to the 1930's), and Partridge & Love. The young Wick side quickly saw success, winning ther Regional division without losing a game. A feat almost repeated the following season when they finished as runners up. Then came a switch to the Bristol & District league, where success continued taking the division 4 title in 1974, and winning the GFA Minor cup the season after. When Partridge & Love disbanded, it gave Wick CA the opportunity to relocate to Oldbury Lane, where they later amalgamated with Wick Athletic to form a single club in the mid 70's. This sparked a lengthy period of progress for the club with the introduction of a Reserve side. The 1st team’s triumph in the 1978 Junior Cup was followed by double celebrations in 1982 when both club sides were promoted - the 1st team winning the B&D Senior Div and the Reserves as runners up in B&D Div 4. Success continued and two seasons later Wick had another double celebration with the 1st team taking the Bristol Prem Combination div 1 title and the Reserves the B&D div 3 crown. The following years were a lean period for the club which included relegation. Then with a name change to RMC Wick (through its sponsorship from the local quarry) fortunes turned in 1998 with a second success in the GFA Junior Cup. This was the catalyst to another successful period at the club, and in the 1999/2000 season the First team returned to the Bristol Prem Comb after taking the B&D Senior Div title. Another promotion the following season saw the First team in the Premier Div of the Bristol Prem where they won the Bristol Prem Cup in both 2003 & 2005.

With an influx of new players, Wick were able to introduce a third side with this A team starting in B&D div 6. 2004 saw the First team finish fourth in the Bristol Prem, and promotion for both the Reserves and A teams, although the Reserves tasted relegation to B&D div 2 the following season. Wick's dreams of promotion to the County League were dashed in the 2004/5 season when a poor end to the season saw them lose their leading position at the half-way stage. In the 2007/8 season the reserves were promoted to the B&D Senior div, but there was little further success for the clubs three Saturday sides until the 2016/17 season, which saw the first team narrowly pipped for the Bristol Prem Comb title but gain promotion to the Marcliffe County League under the reins of Mike Strawford. With an aging A team, the club reluctantly folded their third Saturday side at the end of the 2017/18 season, whilst it looked to form a relationship with an established youth set up. The loss of our A team was offset by the formation of a second Veterans side, and both our two Veterans sides are enjoying both league and cup success. The 2019/20 season will be remembered for all the right and wrong reasons. The season started on a positive note with the reintroduction of our A team. With both the reserves under Dave Paterson, Gary Reilly and Nick Marsh, and the first team under Mike Strawford eager to push for honours,all was well until the season was abruptly brought to an end by the pandemic. With the A team comfortable sitting mid table, the reserves clear in second spot and the first team also 2nd in the league four points behind the leaders with two games in hand, and with a home cup semi-final still to play, we can only dream of what might have been. Without doubt this would have been the clubs most successful season, however league tables will never show this, but our reserves deservedly gained promotion to the Bristol Prem Comb. The 2021/2022 season began with renewed expectations with Joe Pople in the first team hot seat. With two superb cup runs and after an epic battle with Shirehampton, Wick took the County League crown on the last game on the season. Application was made for step 6 promotion, however delays in gaining required planning permission prevented the club gaining it's much deserved promotion. As a result it's squad of talented players left to play at the higher levels they were capable of. With planning permission now in place, we begin a new phase at the club, rebuilding a title winning squad under the stewardship of Kev Pollard, Jamie Johnson and Alistair Foale, and with a talented group of youngsters in the reserves managed by Kev Ashwood assisted by Lee Rendell and Ian Bright.