

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all the supporters of Ebbsfleet United and Dartford. Here's hoping that 2013 is a fantastic year, not only for you personally, but also for both of our North Kent clubs. I also hope that you didn't all get too merry last night, especially when the clock struck twelve!

The Festive Season is certainly one that involves an abundance of food, drink, family time and relaxation. It is also fair to say that the Boxing Day and New Year's Day football matches are part of that tradition too. Nothing beats getting away from the house to go to the local football ground to support your team to a win.

Before I go any further, please spare a thought for me. I have had to spend Christmas and the New Year here in Australia. As you can imagine it is a tough life that I lead, especially when the sun is shining and the temperature is hovering around the 30C mark! Wearing t-shirts and shorts all the time also becomes quite boring too! Oh, and I won't mention the New Year's Eve fireworks...

Anyway, today is the match that the Fleet fans have been waiting for all season. A home game with a bumper crowd, against our near neighbours from 'just up the road'. I think it is fair to say that when the fixtures were released in the summer, that this match was probably the first one pencilled in.

Football derbies are always hotly contested and this one is sure to be no different. The form book and league table positions are thrown out of the window, as 'Local Pride' takes precedence. The fact that this is the second game between these two clubs in six days adds an extra bit of spice to this afternoon's meeting. Both our own Liam Daish and Dartford's Tony Burman will certainly have their squads primed for 110% effort in what is expected to be a closely contested game.

Dartford have had a fantastic season so far. They have probably exceeded their own expectations, which is a tribute to their coach and players. From a Kentish point of view, it is great to see how they have progressed. However, I am sure they are due an off-day sometime soon!

New Year is also a time for resolutions. It is like the slate has been wiped clean for all of us now it is January! At MYFC we are always looking to expand our membership which, in turn, helps the club. The more members we have, the more we can contribute funds to help bolster and improve our squad. Why not make a resolution to help Ebbsfleet United by becoming a MYFC member. Please contact the club for more details, or visit www.myfootballclub.co.uk. Your membership DOES make a huge difference to the club, so please come and join us.

Finally, with a huge crowd expected today, please get behind the team. Players respond much better to vocal support, so please cheer on the Fleet to a well-earned victory.

Although I will not be at the match, and believe me I would love to be there, I will take solace in having a nice cold drink whilst sunbathing on one of Queensland's fantastic beaches. Anyone want to swap places with me?

UP THE FLEET!

Derek Wood (Twitter: @main_man)