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Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

Working for Club & Community

Trust Members Newsletter • Summer 2006 • Free to Members • Issue No. 8

from the chairman...

WELCOME to the latest, and quite possibly best, edition of the Trust's newsletter so far.

I hope you're all enjoying the summer after a long season of football, extended by two weeks to accommodate the new play-off system. And what a tragic end to the season it turned out to be!

I think all regular supporters would join with me in congratulating John Coughlin, his staff and the players for a very valiant effort that really didn't bring the rewards they deserved.

Personally, I witnessed some of the best football that I've seen from any Berwick side, and a crucial spell of injuries to key players (and the inability to replace them) mid-way through the season ultimately cost us the championship and promotion.

At the time of writing it is clear that the team will look very different next season, with Murie, Cowan, Connelly, Hutchinson and McLeish all away primarily as a result of a drastically reduced budget being available to the manager. There's no doubt that the Club

has to get its house in order financially, but we can only hope that every effort is being made by the Board to support the manager - cutting costs is relatively easy, finding new income takes creativity and hard work.



The Trust Committee is currently looking at how we can make best use of the funds

available to us, largely as a result of membership subscriptions. There's a strong feeling from members that we should continue to support, in some way, the excellent progress made by the Youth Initiative, in my mind one of the best things to happen to the Club for many years. Other possibilities include contributions to the infrastructure of the stadium.

We'll be announcing plans for additional fund-raising events later in the year, and we hope that all Trust members will do their utmost to support these.

Can I once again thank all those who contribute so much to the work of the Trust - you know who you are!

Best wishes,
John

inside...



Aim High winners are off to Barcelona!



Our Season 2005/2006 Review



Cowan & Swanson Win POTY Awards



Trust Set-up Town Centre Outlet

Online @ www.berwicktrust.co.uk

You can contact us via email: trust@berwickrangers.co.uk

where sold - **50p**



Aim High Campaign Winners



Above: Winners of the 'Aim High' Draw, Steven Smith (under the hat) is presented with his tickets by Chairman John Bell. Inset top: John reveals that Gary O'Connor has picked committee member David Cook out of the hat. Inset bottom: John and Gary share a laugh and decide to auction the prize.

Our membership drive, titled 'Aim High' came to a conclusion on Saturday 6th May. In total, 24 new members were recruited - which boosts our annual income by around £700 per year.

We class this as a resounding success and something we can all be proud of. The first 12 months' additional income created by these new memberships will be donated directly to the Berwick Rangers Youth Initiative, as promised.

The draw for for the star prize of a European weekend for two, which included flights, accommodation and a

pair of match tickets was drawn in the Black & Gold by goalkeeper Gary O'Connor. The ticket he pulled out of the hat belonged to committee member David Cook. It had been previously agreed that if any of the committee won, the prize would be put up for auction.

John Bell started the bidding off at £100, a number of bids went in, and at the end of the bidding war, new Trust member Steven Smith won the prize, paying £380. A big thank you to Steven for that - he has ended up with a good value holiday and Trust re-couped some of the money we had spent on the prize - it was a win-win situation for everyone



Winners are off to Sunny Spain

The winners of our draw will be jetting off to Barcelona at some point next season, to take in a top La Liga match or be part of a European Champions League night.

Winner Steven Smith spent a short time deliberating over Prague, Milan and even Tallin in Estonia before opting for Barcelona.

They will be flying out on the Thursday, taking the stadium tour on the Friday, going to the match on the Saturday, before returning home on the Sunday. All of which is included in the package.

Anyone who has been to Barcelona will know that there is plenty to see and do - La Ramblas, Paseo de Colon boulevard, the harbour, the aquarium, Montjuic, The Spanish village, Plaza de Catalunya, the Gothic Quarter, the Santa Maria del Mar Cathedral and the Picasso museum. However it is more than likely that the two winners will be more interested in the city's many bars and clubs!

Either way, they are guaranteed to have a fantastic time.

With the draw turning out to be such a success, we are considering making our 'Aim High' campaign an annual exercise. We'd appreciate any view you may have on this, along with any ideas you have to raise our membership.

The quest for new members never ends, so if you know of anyone who still has not joined the Trust, please get in touch with us and we'll get them signed up.

New members, recruited during 'Aim High':

154	Nadine Bain	Tweedmouth
155	Tracy Purvis	Berwick
156	Louie Pike	Duns
157	David Buckle	Cornhill
158	Marisa P Gavioli	Tweedmouth
159	Ben Matthews	Market arborough
160	Chris Scott	Tweedmouth
161	Graeme S Henry	Berwick
162	Glenn Wallace	Ashington
163	Colin Graham	East Ord
164	Paul Foreman	Tweedmouth
165	Angela Fricker	Stevenage
166	Martin Fricker	Stevenage
167	Ivor Patterson	Perth
168	Malcolm Scott	Tweedmouth
169	Steven Smith	Berwick
170	Alan Dunsire	Shipley, W. Yorks
171	Lisa Dixon	Scremerston
172	Andrew Harvey	Foxwood, York
173	John Nicholls	Wisbeck, Cambs
174	John Paul Currie	Berwick
175	Steven Hope	Tweedmouth
176	Bill Black	Tweedmouth



Puerto La Cruz



Las Ramblas



The Nou Camp



Berwick Rangers FC PLC A.G.M.

On Monday, 15th May 2006, the Trust was represented at the football club AGM by board members John Bell, David Cook, Gordon Dickson and Colin Pike. Trust members Alec Dickson and Doug Stenhouse were also in attendance, together with another dozen or so other shareholders.

The administration of the meeting was less than impressive, with business starting 10 minutes later than scheduled and the club accountant arriving 35 minutes late due to adverse weather.

The football club was represented at the meeting by chairman Robert Wilson and directors Brian Porteous, Craig Forsyth, Robert Darling and John Hush (the latter re-elected on the night). Directors Ian Smith, Tom Davidson and Murray McLaren all tendered their apologies for absence.

Your representatives put a number of questions to the chairman (RW) concerning the following matters:

1. Special Resolutions Nos 5 and 6 on the AGM agenda

We were given assurances by the football club company secretary that these resolutions were simply an administrative measure that needed to be renewed annually in compliance with AGM governance requirements, and that these were not an attempt to achieve other objectives.

2. Re-appointment of director John Hush

We asked whether the reappointment of director John Hush (a legal requirement having passed the age of 70) meant that the supporters club representation on the board

had reduced from 2 to 1 member following the somewhat confused set of circumstances which led to the other supporters club rep on the board, Peter McAskill, stepping down earlier this year.

We didn't get a clear answer. The chairman suggested that the arrangement whereby the supporters club had had two reps on the football club board had been an informal one, and that John Hush could still maintain his links with the supporters club.

This didn't sound much like a commitment to continuing or encouraging supporter representation on the board. We suspect that the supporters club may want to seek some clarity about how this affects them.

3. £48,000 loss in 2004/05

We asked if the board could explain the factors that led to a loss of £48k in 2004/05. There was a lengthy discussion of this item, but the upshot is that again we didn't get either a coherent or satisfactory answer. The board were unable to explain with any degree of clarity how £35k of the £48k loss was accrued, though to his credit Craig Forsyth suggested that it was probably attributable to over-expenditure on players wages.

4. AGM meeting arrangements

It was suggested to the board that holding an AGM on Monday nights disadvantaged shareholders living outwith the immediate area, and that the board might wish to consider holding the AGM on a Saturday morning prior to a home game to make the meeting more accessible to all shareholders. It's fair to say that the proposal found little support from the board.

Trust Annual General Meeting



The Trust held a very successful AGM in the Black and Gold Club on 15th April.

The AGM was attended by 39 Trust members who welcomed BRFC Manager John Coughlin as special guest speaker. Coff gave a full and frank precis of the season-on and off the pitch- and was generous in his support of the Trusts' aims and objectives.



Guest speaker: John Coughlin

It's fair to say he's one of the best, and most honest, speakers whose company we've had the pleasure of, and he was rewarded with some very enthusiastic applause before heading off to prepare the team for the promotion challenge.

The Trust Board was appointed for a further two years to April 2008, with board membership as follows: Chair: John Bell, Vice-Chair: Colin Pike, Treasurer: Gordon Dickson, Membership Secretary: Bill Purvis, Secretary: David Cook, Keith Hall, Ronald Kirk, Eddie McCall, Derek Purvis, Paul Smith, Dave Stewart, Mark Swanston, Karen Thorburn, George Thompson.

We're delighted to welcome Karen Thorburn to the Board (she'll shake up the chauvinists!); Karen brings with her the additional benefit of being Borough Councillor for Shielfield Ward.

One vacancy remains on the Board, so if you're interested, please contact David Cook.

Chairman John Bell outlined the Trust's aims for the next 12

months. The membership endorsed proposals to continue supporting Berwick Rangers' Youth Development Programme, and the Trust policy of retaining some influence over funding made available to the football club.

The Chairman revealed plans to undertake a consultation with supporters to find out what their priorities are to help with the development of the Trust's new business plan.

A programme of future Trust events will be published shortly.

Membership Update



Trust Membership Now 143.

After a slow start our "Aim High" Campaign eventually brought in a total of 24 new members which, in view of our overall membership, is an excellent effort. Unfortunately, for various reasons, we have lost a few members and therefore our total membership has increased to 143.

Those of you who pay your Trust Membership annually will have recently received a reminder from me and I hope that you will all be renewing your subscription. In their wisdom our Auditors have decreed that all Annual Memberships will fall due in June (in the close season!) but several of you have indicated that you will pay up at the start of next season. It's not so far away so I'm quite prepared to wait that long!

Don't forget, our membership drive never ends, so if you know anyone who would like to join the Trust, please get in touch.

Berwick Rangers
directory enquiries... 1 18813
 Call 118813 the only number you need!
 Calls cost 49p, of which 9p is donated to our Youth Fund

SEASON 05-06 REPORT

ON AND OFF
THE PARK

Unless I'm missing a trick here, there's something fundamentally wrong with a system that fails to relegate a second bottom side with 8 wins all season and promote the 23-victory runners up from the league below.

It was Berwick Rangers' bad luck that they became the fall guys in the Scottish Football League's latest attempt to inject some life into a moribund structure. The suits will argue that the end justified the means, and that playoff crowds proved the public hunger for their latest product.

Try telling that to John Coughlin and his team, who overcame a mid-season blip and the limitations created by a too-small squad by hunting down Stenhousemuir and coming a hair's breadth from claiming the title ahead of Cowdenbeath, the eventual champions beaten three times this season by Rangers.

Okay, so someone had to lose out, but it's still a huge pain in the arse that it ended up being us. Rangers deserved to be champions. They had the best defence in the league by a mile, and whilst they could'nt match Cowden's firepower, they claimed five wins out of eight against the top and third placed sides, losing only two of those fixtures.

So where did we lose the title? Well, Montrose seemed to hold the Indian sign over Rangers, forcing 3 draws in four games, and we also struggled to impose

ourselves against the poorer sides like Shire and Albion Rovers. But perhaps the most important factor was that the transfer window came and went without any meaningful strengthening of a squad that clearly needed it.

Cowden and Stenhousemuir gave their campaigns a kickstart by recruiting quality players like Pattaleinen and Diack. We got Sean Palickza. Nuff said. And if you've still got doubts about the argument I'm trying to make here, remind yourselves of the state of the Gers after 20 minutes at Recreation Park in the playoff final 1st leg – this was a team which was out on its feet, absolutely knackered. Their legs had gone, but it is testament to their sheer guts that they put the frighteners on the Wasps in the return at Shielfield. Who knows what might have happened if Kevin McCleish had put his penalty away.....

John Coughlin was manager of the season by a country mile, but his players deserve their names up in lights as well. Gary O proved himself the best keeper in the league, Mark Cowan gathered in the ultimate footballing honour as Trust player of the year, and Hutch selflessly played out of position for half a season to help keep the ship afloat. Haynes cemented his position as the biggest cult figure since Davie Moyes was biting legs, McNicol just did his thing as the best centre-half outside the first division, and Ian Little drew deep to drive his side on through the thick and thin of it.

Davie Murie ended his Shielfield career with his best season in a Black and Gold shirt, while McCleish and McGroarty brought real class to the team, and Danny Swanston looks like the brightest prospect at Shielfield for years.

So we're all set for a repeat next season then? Er, not quite. The exodus of 5 key players to a suburb of Skinflats brought expectations crashing back to earth, and the signing of 3 East of Scotland players hasn't yet heralded an outbreak of mass hysteria in the streets of out town, though no-one can complain if they end up as good as Danny Swanston or Kevin Haynes. You might be asking however, why we can't compete on the same terms as Stenhousemuir.

In addition to the loss of key players (and with McNicol, Little and McGroarty not signed at the time of writing this), the club's financial state is a worry. The chairman has been quoted in the national press saying that a £400k debt is not a cause for concern. Given Ranger's lack of tangible assets, I'd disagree. Trust board reps attended the football club's AGM in May and asked some searching questions about last year's £48k loss, which seems to be largely attributable to overspend on players wages, though no-one was quite sure what the money had been spent on. This is worrying. Supporters need to know that the club is in safe hands. If you need to justify to yourself why it's worth joining the Trust, then consider where the club could be heading....

Thank God for the World Cup.





We marked our Centenary too early!

Berwick Rangers fan and Trust member ALAN BELL has recently made an amazing discovery during research for a new book on the history of the club.

It has always been believed that the Berwick Rangers Football Club was formed in 1881 and accordingly they celebrated their centenary in 1981.

However, Alan, from Spittal, has now uncovered irrefutable evidence that the club was not formed until January 7th 1884. This means that the two previously published books on the club were inaccurate and the centenary was marked almost three years too early!

Alan's book is to be called An International Every Week: A History of Berwick Rangers. The plan is to publish the first volume, covering the years 1884-1945, in December 2008 and the second volume, 1946-2009 at some point afterwards.

Discussions have been held with the Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust about publishing the book when it is finished. All the proceeds will go to the Trust.



Club Historian & Supporter Alan Bell



Ducket Wanderers on Tour 2006

Berwick Rangers supporters team, the Ducket Wanderers, recently completed their fifth European tour.

This year the trip took place entirely in the Czech Republic and principally in the Moravian town of Zabreh (a town about the same size of Berwick). The match against a local XI ended in a 6 -3 defeat.

The pre-match build up of slivovice (the local rocket fuel) and a re-enactment of Dusk 'til Dawn in big Pavel's pub failed to produce the elusive victory.

The circus moved onto Pardubice, the home of Semtex (the explosive and energy drink). The team took in the Second Division game



Committee members John Bell & Mark Swanston 'in action'.

between Hradec Kralove and Viktoria Zizkov, the lads feeling entirely at home in a crowd of 830 in a 25,000 capacity stadium.

A final couple of days in Prague 'sight seeing' finished off another memorable trip. 2007 is already being planned!



Trust Player of the Year

The time of year arrived again for Trust members to dig deep and come up with their vote for player of the year.

Members were asked to communicate their votes to the committee in a variety of ways, one being via the Trusts official website @ www.berwicktrust.co.uk. You duly obliged and when all the votes were collated one winner emerged, Mark Cowan.

Arrangements were put in place to hold the presentation, in an informal way, in the Black & Gold social club after the last game of the season. The Trust board made public the arrangements and in due course the day arrived. Up till then things had run smoothly, however as people gathered in the Black & Gold the news filtered through that the FC Chairman had banned any players from attending the Black & Gold due to an

ongoing dispute (which had seen him banned) he had with its owners. They (the football club) had just made their own presentations on the pitch for the same reasons.

Negotiations quickly followed between several Trust board members and the Chairman with the upshot being that common sense prevailed and the presentation took place with Mark receiving his well deserved award from Trust Chairman John Bell (never slow to the mic himself!). A number of other players attended which was appreciated by those in attendance. A big thanks to them for displaying personal integrity.

It later emerged from all parties, except the FC Chairman, that everyone, including the players intended to proceed as planned, irrespective of the boards decision.



Trust Chairman John Bell presents Mark Cowan with the 'Trust Player of the Year' award. Inset left: 'Team Positive', a small group of supporters who travel the country watching their team, present Kevin Haynes with their award. Inset right: Danny Swanston receives the 'Black & Gold Player of the Year' award.



Supporters Trust News

TRUST SPEAK AT ROTARY CLUB

The Trust recently received an invitation from Berwick Rotary Club asking if someone from the board would like to be guest speaker at their next meeting. Vice-chair Colin Pike agreed to do the honours and duly done his bit at their meeting in Tonys Steak House in Berwick last Tuesday evening. Before a full house Colin outlined to members the history and future plans for the Trust. The speech was well received with a number of Rotarians passing on their thanks.



The Trust would like to pass on their thanks to Berwick Rotary for their kind invitation and Rotarian and Trust member Graham Exley for his help.



Committee members David Cook, Colin Pike & John Bell

TRUST DAY OUT AT HAMPDEN

The Trust ran a bus to the Scottish Cup final at Hampden in May. On a glorious day everyone enjoyed a great game after Trust friend and Gretna owner Brookes Mileson very kindly sold the Trust a number of Tickets. Enjoying great seats in the main stand everyone had a superb time.

TRUST HELP ATTENDANCE BOOST

Prior to the end of season games against East Fife and Queen's Park, several Trust members

took to the streets to hand out nearly 5,000 leaflets, in an effort to get as many people through the turnstiles as possible for these crucial promotion games. Trust members gave up their Good Friday to promote the club to the people of Berwick and the



← Pictured here is committee member Mark Swaston handing out a leaflet to occasional supporter David Bruce in Main St, Tweedmouth. David attended Berwick Rangers v East Fife later that day.

surrounding areas, including Haggerston Castle Holiday Centre. The initiative was well received by the general public, which was reflected by the attendances at both games - against East Fife, 629 turned up, around 200 more than normal. And against Queen's Park, 1,015 came along to show their support. A big thank you to Haggerston Castle for sponsoring the leaflet drop.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTERS TRAVEL

We recently subsidised supporters coaches to Alloa and Stenhousemuir. We have since received the following email:-

This is a delayed thank you for organising the bus trip to Alloa last Wednesday. I have been following Berwick Rangers on a regular basis for the last 4 months, seeing most of the home games and making 3 away trips by car, but I really enjoyed the opportunity to travel with other fans last week. The £5 price was fantastic, much less than my petrol costs for each of the trips to East Fife, Cowdenbeath and Montrose!

Many thanks for organising the trip. I will keep looking at the website for news and future

TRUST LINK UP WITH AMAZON



For those who buy on line there is now an opportunity to still take advantage of internet shopping and donate money to the Trust.

How? Simply by clicking onto the Amazon icon on the Trust website. If you buy through that link a proportion of what you spend will come back to the Trust at no extra cost to yourself. This also means that, not only can you get the bargains you want but some of the money you spend will come back into the local economy through the Trust. With £1000s spent this way every year by local people it means that a considerable sum could be coming back to Berwick. Tell your family and friends, it's a win win situation!

Amazon is just the first of a number planned for the website, look out for others in the near future.

TRUST TO GO GREEN!

Over the last few months there has a move within the Trust board to look at Green issues in relation to the football club. This debate took a positive step forward when, at the recent AGM, there was a deal of support for the policy from the floor.

There are principally two issues, energy saving and renewable energy sources. The former concerns better use of energy by the club, both in insulation and more efficient heat and light generation.

More Snippets



The second issue is about using renewable energy sources such as the sun, wind and ground heat to provide or supplement the club's energy use.

We plan over the next season to work with the club to advance these ideas into some positive steps toward reducing carbon emissions and lowering the club's energy bill.

MEMBERSHIP PACKS

By now you should have received your very own membership file and lapel badge. The idea of the member file is for you to keep all your correspondence from us in it. All newsletters, flyers, your membership certificate, letters etc. If you have not received your file yet, please get in touch.

BROMSGROVE TRUST VISIT

On Saturday, 11th March, the Trust hosted six guys from the Bromsgrove Trust for a visit to Shielfield to see Berwick versus Cowdenbeath. A few pre-match ales were quaffed and relationships established. The lads all had a good time and enjoyed the victory.



Trust Vice-Chair Colin Pike accepts a pennant from Bromsgrove Vice-Chair Rob Birch after the game.

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust Newsletter - Issue 8

Committee: John Bell (Chairman), Colin Pike (Vice Chairman), Ronald Kirk, Keith Hall, David Cook (Secretary), Gordon Dickson (Treasurer), Eddie McCall, Mark Swanston, Bill Purvis, Derek Purvis, Paul Smith, George Thompson, David Stewart & Karen Thorburn
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 Any future contributions can be sent to: 9-12 Golden Sq, Berwick. Or email trust@berwickrangers.co.uk



Supporters Direct Annual Conference

Trust board members David Cook, Paul Smith and Mark Swanston attended the Supporters Direct in Scotland 4th Annual Conference at Napier University on Sunday, 28th May.

There are now **31 trusts in Scotland**, and most were represented at the conference which attracted an excellent turnout of around 100 delegates.

The conference provided a great opportunity to share experiences with representatives from other Scottish trusts, and establish links with them.

One of the highlights of the day was a presentation by UEFA's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, William Gaillard.

The main themes of his presentation were:

- The introduction of the Supporters Direct model in other European countries, so successful has it been in the UK.
- The threat posed to the democratic structure of football in Europe by the G14 group of superclubs.

The remainder of the day was taken up with a series of workshops, which tend to be the most valuable part of the day in terms of finding out who's doing what elsewhere, and which ideas we can nick for our own trust.

David, Paul and Mark attended workshops on the following subjects and will be submitting a full report to the next meeting of the trust board setting out a number of proposals for future trust activity:

- Who owns Scottish football?
- Boardroom representation
- Community and supporter-led ownership of football clubs
- Supporters direct – where now?
- The community club
- The future of the SFL



UEFA's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, William Gaillard

The good news is that the government have decided to continue their support of the supporters trust movement by agreeing further funding for Supporters Direct in both Scotland and England for the next few years. The supporters trust model is so successful that it is now being introduced into other sports, with the first trusts in rugby union established this year.

We will be working with Supporters Direct in Scotland to continue the development of the Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust to help meet its aims and objectives.

If you would like to read a full review of the Supporters Direct Conference 2006, visit their website @ www.supporters-direct.org. If you would like to attend future Supporters Direct events, please let us know and we will notify you of any forthcoming dates.



Trust Secure Town Centre Outlet

A holiday maker keen to get his hands on a Berwick Rangers scarf has led to the Trust being able to sell club merchandise from a town centre location.

Rick Carpenter from Manchester had been admiring the Rangers shirt and scarf currently owned and on display in the window of Bridge Street based investment company Tyne & Tweed.

Upon enquiring if he could buy one, David Gordon, a partner at Tyne & Tweed took the initiative and contacted Trust Vice-chairman Colin Pike via the Trust website. Colin took up the baton and contacted Rick arranging to get two scarfs to him before he returned home from his holiday.



Tyne & Tweed, West Street

However David went further offering the use of their display window at their West Street offices to the Trust to display club merchandise and in turn sell the shirts, scarf's mugs etc to anybody making an enquiry.

Vice-Chairman Colin Pike visited Tyne & Tweed and tied up the details with the firms other partner Stuart Brown. The Trust views this as an invaluable opportunity to get a presence in the town centre and in turn make club merchandise

available to the public.

The Trust board would like to sincerely thank David and Stuart at Tyne & Tweed in Berwick for their kind assistance in making this

New Trust Directory Enquiries - 118813



During late September 2005 Trust Vice Chairman Colin Pike had the idea to do what a few other clubs and trusts had done up to that point, get a dedicated directory enquiries number. In an effort to glean some useful information Colin did what he normally does in that situation, he "Googled" it. This threw up a few ideas which he researched, eventually picking on a company called Ethcom, who specialise in providing a directory enquiry service to organisations pursuing charitable aims.

After speaking to the company and exchanging many emails during September and October of that year the number was "reserved" for the Trust. The next step after that was to send what they called a "letter of intent". The number at that stage to all intents and purposes belonged to the Trust however as with all these things they informed Colin the "go live" date would be some 90 days hence.

This took the situation through to February/March of this year when at long last the number became available to use. The companies own blurb tells us the following :-

- Calls are taken in two locations, one in Glasgow with 200 seats and one in Birmingham with 230 seats, "particularly important when so many are located on foreign shores"
- Our Directory Enquiries database covers all households and businesses in the UK who have a telephone line installed (by any provider eg BT, NTL, Telewest etc).

Each call costs 40p, very competitive, with 9p of that going to Trust funds. This is particularly gratifying given that set up costs totalled NIL. Your Trust now has an income generating source that few other Trusts in the country have and all you have to do IS USE IT.

Get it into your phone....and use it....you know it makes sense!



Meet Your 2006/07 Trust Committee



John Bell - Chairman

John has been our chairman for over three years now and was part of the original steering group. He has also served on the Football Club board. He works as a Youth Project manager.



Colin Pike - Vice Chairman

Another founder of the Trust, Colin has spearheaded many projects, such as our new 118813 directory enquiries service. He works for the NHS Care Trust and has two grown up children.

David Cook - Secretary

David is our Trust secretary and takes care of all our clerical and administrative issues. He also organises our A.G.M. and Trust meetings. He works for Berwick Borough Council.



Bill Purvis - M'ship Secretary

A retired Bank manager, Bill took over as membership secretary in 2005 and is doing a great job keeping the membership in check and keeping up with annual renewals. He lives in Swinton.



Gordon Dickson - Treasurer

Another Berwick Borough Council employee, Gordon works with our accountant and auditors to keep our house in order. He also manages our Trust shop and is part of the Shielfield Park working group.



Paul Smith

A follower of Berwick both home and away, Paul has been on the committee for over three years. He edits and compiles our newsletter and was also the responsible for the recent 'Aim High' campaign.

Karen Thorburn

A new member as of April 2006, Karen is a councillor for the Shielfield ward. She is a keen follower home and away and is keen to get her teeth into some new Trust projects in 2006.



Mark Swanston

Another relatively new member, Mark works as an office manager. He is keen to promote the Trust whenever the opportunity arises - including helping on our Christmas stall and our recent attendace drive.



Eddie McCall

A matchday steward at Shielfield Park, Eddie is always willing to help out and is always on hand to help with fundraisers. He lives in Tweedmouth and works in Berwick for the Laurence J. Pearson Chartered Accountants.



David Stewart

Another Councillor in our midst, David is always ready to offer his own take on Trust matters. He organised our New Year raffle in 2005 and is always willing to help out at Trust events.

George Thompson

A lifelong fan, enthusiastic committee member and is also the "Voice" on a Saturday at Shielfield Park. He lives in Berwick and works as a Communications Officer at Scottish Borders Council.



Keith Hall

Keith has been a committee members for two years now. He runs his own motor repair business in Duns, where he also lives. A follower of Berwick Rangers home and away for many a year.



Derek Purvis

Living in Tweedbank, Derek provides us with a link to the Scottish Borders. He also helps out on www.berwick-forums.co.uk and is regularly online to answer any Trust related questions you may have.



Ronald Kirk

'Kirky' lives in Duns and works for Melrose Porteous Solicitors. And as such, he provides the Trust with invaluable legal advice. He is another keen follower of the 'Dream Team', both home and away.

Supporters Direct in Scotland



When the Trust was first formed in 2003, we were assisted by a government funded body called 'Supporters Direct'. They exist to aid and support over 100 Trusts across England, Wales and Scotland. They have recently been approved for funding to carry on for at least another three years.

Supporters Direct is an initiative backed by the Scottish Executive, funded by public money, and based at Robert Owen House in Glasgow.

Their aim is to help people "who wish to play a responsible part in the life of the football club they support" and we offer support, advice and information to groups of football supporters.

Supporters Direct exists to:

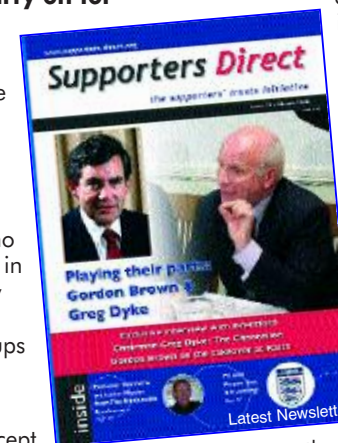
- Promote and support the concept of democratic supporter ownership and representation through mutual, not-for-profit structures
- Promote football clubs as civic and community institutions
- * Work to preserve the competitive values of league football in the United Kingdom and promoting the health of the game as a whole

Their headline achievements are:

- * Over 100 Supporters' Trusts across England, Wales and Scotland
- * 59 Supporters' Trusts hold equity within their football clubs
- * 38 Football clubs have supporter representation within the boards of their football clubs
- * Supporter ownership at 2 English Football League clubs
- * Supporters' ownership at 6 UK non-league clubs, including the reformed Clydebank FC
- * Supporters' Trust involvement in saving a club at 13 clubs
- * Supporters' Trusts have brought around £10M of investment into the game on the basis of 750K over 3 years to support the work of Supporters Direct – over a 5-fold

increase on that initial funding.

- * Over 75,000 people have joined democratic not-for-profit organisations dedicated to fostering enhanced relationships between clubs and their communities and providing direct experience of the importance of citizen activism and democratic involvement in the delivery of key local services.



Supporters Direct has been in intense liaison with the Trusts at York City, Lincoln City, Chesterfield, Exeter City, Notts County, Bury to name but a few. In all these instances, the club has to-date survived the process of administration and in all of them, the Supporters' Trust has been a crucial feature of that survival. In some, they have provided significant funds towards the reconstruction of

the business. In others, they have mobilised the supporters and the local community and generated interest in the club that has convinced local businesses and individuals to come forward.

Without their efforts, there would not now be 92 professional clubs in England and Wales. It's been said that if one club were to be liquidated, it would start a domino effect - a major reason why this has not yet happened is through the efforts of many Supporters' Trusts advised by Supporters Direct.

To qualify for the assistance of Supporters Direct, supporters groups must be:-

- Democratic in their structures and in the way they run their affairs;
- Open to all fans to join, at an affordable cost; and
- Broadly representative of supporters.
- Viable and sustainable as a group, and pursuing viable and sustainable objectives.

If you wish to find out more about Supporters Direct, log on to their website @ www.supporters-direct.org where you can