



On the Ball!

NEWSLETTER OF BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS TRUST

MAY 2003

Two Key Aims Achieved in Eight Weeks!

As we come to the end of the season we begin a new chapter in the long history of Berwick Rangers. By now you will probably be aware that Jamie Curle has stepped down as Chairman, and in doing so, has enabled the Trust to acquire a significant shareholding in stages (total 40,000 shares) from three different individuals. This will cost £18,000 spread over the next four years, to be largely met by fund-raising events. The Trust Committee approved this proposal at a special meeting on Sunday 4th. May, which enabled the Trust to meet one of its key objectives within two months of its launch. A second key objective was also achieved when the Trust was subsequently invited to nominate a member to serve as a Director. The Committee approved **John Bell's** nomination, who will serve until the Trust's first Annual General Meeting, when it will become an elected post.

At a Board Meeting on Monday 5th. May, Robert Wilson became the new Chairman and it was confirmed that several new faces are joining the Board: Ian Smith, Robert Darling, and Craig Forsyth, and the return of former Director Moray McLaren. Investments made by the new Board will help to clear the Club's inherited overdraft, but there is no doubt that the Club will be cutting costs, particularly wages, to balance the books in the coming year. This is very much in common with other Scottish clubs. In the longer term, financial prudence will be predominant, and the Board will ensure that the Club will live within the income it can generate on and off the field.

The Trust has been recognised by the April edition of the Supporters Direct magazine as setting a new record, with over 20% of the average home attendance at the Public Meeting, the best turn-out so far of over 70 Trusts across the UK!

Trust on the Web

The Trust publishes minutes of meetings and latest news on its web-site at:

www.berwickrangerstrust.co.uk

Many thanks to Trust member **Kevin McCormick** for his hard work in making this happen! Copies are also available at the Club Shop.

Committee

The following people are serving on the Trust's Committee until the first AGM, when the members will elect their committee: **John Bell, Bill Parkin, Kirsty McLeod, Bill Purvis, Colin Pike, Gordon Dickson, Keith Hall, David Cook, Stewart Lee, Kevin McCormick, Paul Smith, George Thompson and Colin Pike.**

David Cook is Trust Secretary and **Gordon Dickson** is Treasurer and looking after membership applications and standing orders. **Kirsty McLeod** will head a fund-raising team.

Diary Dates

Here's some advance warning of coming events which the Trust are hoping to organise:

- July - Full Trust meeting with Management and Players 'talk-in' - date to be arranged depending on friendly fixtures.
- September - Celebration of 50 years of League football
- September - Supporters Team v Berwick Legends (former Black & Gold heroes pull their boots on again!)
- March 2004 - England v Scotland schoolboy international at Shielfield.

Also:

- August 2nd - first league fixture
- August 5th - Bells Challenge Cup Rnd.1

Stadium Safety:

Trust member **Gordon Dickson** has agreed to fill the role of Safety Officer, working alongside Chief Steward Kevin Hull, the Supporter's Club and the Board to ensure that safety obligations are met and that segregation issues are addressed. There is a need for more people to come forward as match-day stewards, even on an occasional basis, and a short training course will be offered before the start of the new season.

Junior Supporters:

The Board have agreed to allow all children and young people under 14 entry to all League games next season for £1.00 with a paying adult. An adult can bring up to four children with them, with other arrangements for groups. A special voucher will be distributed through schools and youth organisations in the coming months. Other admission prices have also been frozen at this years rates.

Shares:

Many thanks to **David McLean** for his generous donation of 1000 shares and to **Jimmy Grant** and former player **Russell Craig** for offering voting rights on their shareholdings.

Sponsorship Packages will soon be available for the coming season. If you, your friends or your company are interested in match-day sponsorship or stadium advertising, give **Conrad Turner**, Commercial Manager, a ring on 01289 307969 as soon as possible.

Members Roll-Call

Membership has now reached almost 70 within just eight weeks of the Public Meeting - members will shortly be receiving their Trust share certificates and membership cards - thanks to **Paul Smith** for the design work. If you're not on the list - pick up your forms from the club shop or call 01289 333100. If you've got forms and haven't returned them - use the free-post envelope to get them back as soon as possible - we're aiming for 100 members by the end of May! **Kirsty McLeod** has offered an extra incentive - forms completed and handed in at the Angel are worth a free drink!

Members to date are:

Alan Bell, Derek Bell, Graham Bell, John Bell, Duncan Black, Alan Beith, Steven Carter, David Cook, Alan Crosbie, Dairmid Campbell-Jack, Andrew Dewar, Andrew Dickson, Gordon Dickson, Keith Douglas, Walter Deicher, Andrew Dickson, Graham Exley, Nicola Fewkes, Darren Flannigan, Graham Flannigan, Amy Faragher, G Henry, Keith Hall, Ian Hay, Heather Hay, Debra Jerdan, Simon Landels, Stewart Lee, Elaine Mallory, Alex Matthews, Doug Matthews, Elaine Melia & Karl Cook, Linda McCormick, Kevin McCormick, David Morton, Neil Moncur, Dennis McCleary, Martin McCleary, Jack Mathieson, Edward McCall, Roy Moffat, Liam R O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer, Colin Pike, Darren Pike, Simon Pryde, Derek Purvis, William Purvis, C A Pike, Natalie Pike, Rodelle Purvis, Albert Robson, David Robson, Stuart Robson, Nick Rust, Alex Renton, Claire Sim, Paul Smith, David Skeldon, Douglas Strachan, David Spence, Paul Ternant, Nicolas Vagg, M Whillis, Peter Watson, Alan Young, Barry Yourston.

Several more forms have been received in the last week—you'll get a mention next time!

Sincere thanks to all those who have offered support and encouragement— the Trust will play a major part in the future of Berwick Rangers with your help.

Jamie Curle and Club Treasurer **Neil Simpson** recently gave a very informative presentation to the Trust Committee regarding the finances of a football club. The Trust wishes to recognise the hard work of **Jamie** and his wife **Angela** during the last seven years and hope that they can now enjoy a well-earned rest from the pressures of running a Club.