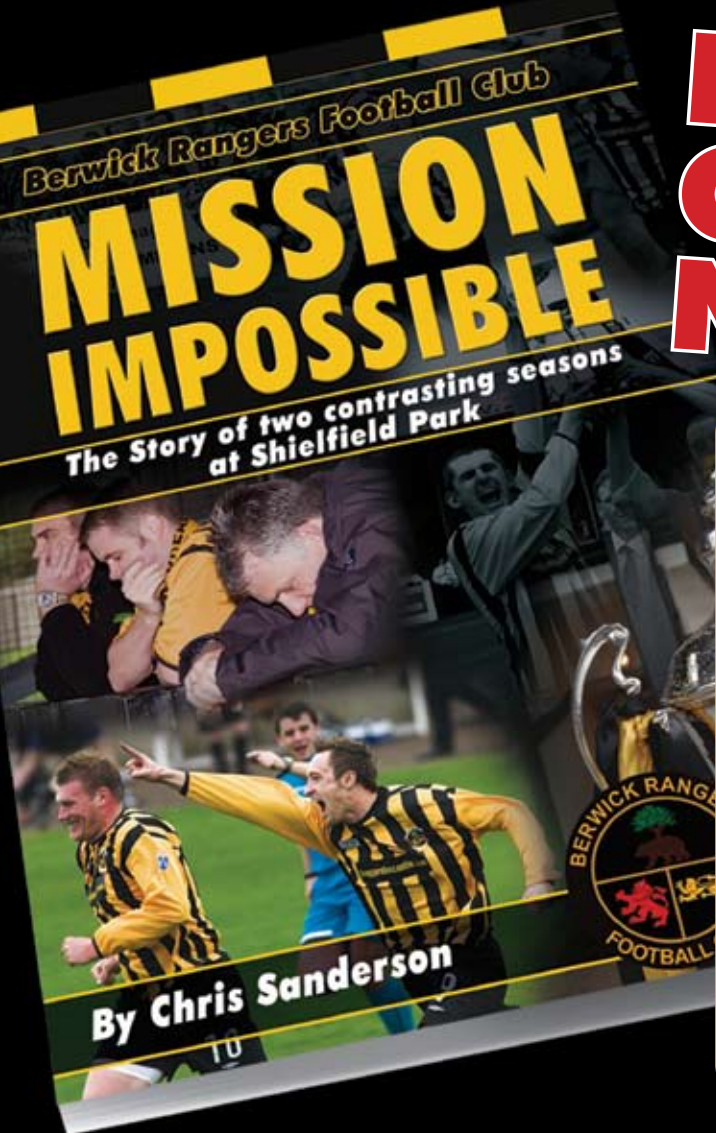




Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

Working for Club & Community

TRUST MEMBERS NEWSLETTER • WINTER 2007 • FREE TO MEMBERS • ISSUE NO. 11



BOOK OUT NOW!

In this issue...



Mission Impossible hits the shelves!

Our new membership campaign kicks off



Our season so far

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Newsletter No. 11 Winter 2007

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from the chairman...

Hello and welcome to the Winter 2007 edition of the Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust newsletter.

I hope you are all in fine fettle and looking forward to Christmas and 2008.

Unfortunately on the football front, the 2007/2008 season has got off to a very poor start, and John Coughlin's resignation in October brought home how fickle football is, as only five months before we were celebrating a fine Championship win. I'd like to extend our sincere thanks to John for all his fine work at BRFC, but particularly for his support of the Trust. 'Coff' regularly attended Trust events and his honest and easy-going manner made him very popular with the fans, and left us in no doubt of the feelings he has for the Club. We wish him well in his new football adventures.

We also welcome Michael Renwick as his replacement, and I'm sure we'll all get to know more about him in the coming months. He's taken on a difficult job, and can only hope that he has the resources available to him to help get the 'Gers' away from the foot of the table. We wish you every success in your first management post, Michael.

I hope that by now you will have all heard about, and indeed ordered, the new publication 'Mission Impossible'. This book has been financed by the Trust and put together by two Trust members, Chris Sanderson and Paul Smith. I'm sure it's an essential Christmas present for any football fan, and as its unlikely we'll be doing another print run, get in fast as numbers are limited.

I would also ask you to try support our new membership drive 'Target 200', where we are trying to push our active membership up to the double century mark! Why not sign up a friend or a member of your family? If you do, you will be entered into a special prize draw. Full details of this can be found in this newsletter or on our website.

Hope you enjoy the newsletter - have a peaceful, healthy and prosperous festive season.

Best wishes,

John Bell
Chairman,
Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

the season so far...

Some people were born with a monkey round their neck. If you're a Berwick Rangers supporter, then your monkey is known in psychiatric terms as the "emotional rollercoaster". Think back to that glorious day in April, that precise moment when Ian Diack swivelled to slide home the championship winning goal to send the Ducket into euphoric celebration, and compare it with how you feel now, with your team rooted at the bottom of the league and wondering where the next point will come from. As a hack once famously asked George Best, where did it all go wrong?



From a footballing point of view, the visit of Cowdenbeath for our Division 2 opener on 4th August was a wake up call. OK, so we'd all heard the old wives tales about the yawning gap between the second and third divisions, but few of us thought that gap would become apparent so soon. Despite the Gers earning a deserved draw, Cowden rammed home the point by being streets ahead of any outfit Rangers faced in the preceding season. And that from mid-to-lower level second division side. They were bigger, stronger, and faster than Rangers, though not more skilful. These have become recurring themes as the season has progressed. While most supporters agreed with Kevin Haynes being offloaded to the juniors, the big man will always be fondly remembered at Shielfield. The sale of Gary Greenhill was more baffling, because it quickly became apparent that a midfielder who can hold on to the ball and direct play was an essential commodity in the higher league.

Nonetheless, Rangers acquitted themselves well in a 3-1 defeat at Kirkcaldy against title favourites Raith Rovers, watched by the PM elect, pushed a high-class Hamilton side all the way in a narrow 3-2 cup defeat at Shielfield, and somehow beat Airdrie 2-0 in their sole league victory to date. Since then, it's fair to say that the wheels have come off. Honourable draws against Brechin (3-3) and Ayr (1-1) have broken a depressing sequence of defeats against Ross County (0-1), Queens Park (0-1), Alloa (0-3), Cowdenbeath (1-3), Airdrie (0-4) and most recently Peterhead (1-2). On the plus side, Rangers have not been subjected to many humpings, but neither have they looked like winning any of those games they've lost narrowly. The supine cup defeat at Dumbarton underlined growing concern that Rangers have simply ceased to be competitive.



When a team at our level gets promoted to a higher league, the main objective has to be consolidation. Rangers have operated with a shallow squad for the last few years, which works ok if everyone stays fit, but the injury list continues to resemble a bad script from Holby City, which means the manager often has to play patently unfit players. It's also fair to say that the close season signings have been of mixed quality. Scott Gemmill is quick and works hard, Paul McMullen is belatedly showing real promise at left back, though Bolo has performed inconsistently at centre half. The jury is out on Kevin McLeish, who looks off the pace of the game and often exposes the ultra-committed Tommy Lennox, who deserves huge praise for the shift he's putting in at right back. Rangers have three genuine second division class players in Swanson, Fraser and O'Connor. Others may or may not be, but there are too many question marks over the remainder of the squad for supporters to be confident that their team will avoid relegation. People like Gary Wood and Chris McGroarty, who many thought would be stalwarts this season, have barely figured for one reason or another.

And you thought I wasn't going to mention the managerial situation, eh? John Coughlin leaving the club came as no surprise. His place in Rangers' history is assured, and he deserves huge credit for what he achieved in the two previous seasons. It saddens me that instead of focusing their energies on getting behind Michael Renwick, Coff's successor, there are vindictive elements around the club with short memories who are now trying to rewrite history by devaluing Coughlin's contribution towards one of the most successful onfield periods in Berwick Rangers' recent history. Maybe that's further evidence that spending every waking hour on Pie and Bovril can seriously affect your mental health.

So welcome, Michael Renwick, and good luck, because you're going to need it. It's early days, but the performance in the home draw against Ayr was one of the best of the season. If that can be maintained, and the chairman's promise of money for 3 or 4 new players in the January window is fulfilled, the blow of losing the mercurial Danny Swanson will be softened and survival might still be achieved. That monkey is getting nervous again. **DC**

The much anticipated chronicle of last season's championship success is about to hit the bookshelves.

Aptly titled 'Mission Impossible' - the book goes in-depth and behind the scenes on how the league title was secured on the back of the previous season's heartache which saw John Coughlin's side pipped at the post by Cowdenbeath.

The book, which was written by Chris Sanderson along with the help of fellow trust members Paul Smith and David Cook, recalls all the highs and lows of two seasons that will never be forgotten in the club's history.

During the time when most supporters were lying with their feet up enjoying their summer break from the rigours of following the Dream Team - Chris, Paul and David worked non-stop to get the book onto the shelves as quick as possible.

Speaking about the book, Chris said: "The story was too good just to be banished to the history books, 'Mission Impossible' is a fitting tribute to those that made it happen.

"A lot of hard work has gone into getting the book off the ground and without the work of Paul Smith and help from the Supporters Trust, the book would have never got beyond the initial idea, which was first mooted amidst the post-match championship celebrations after the Arbroath game.

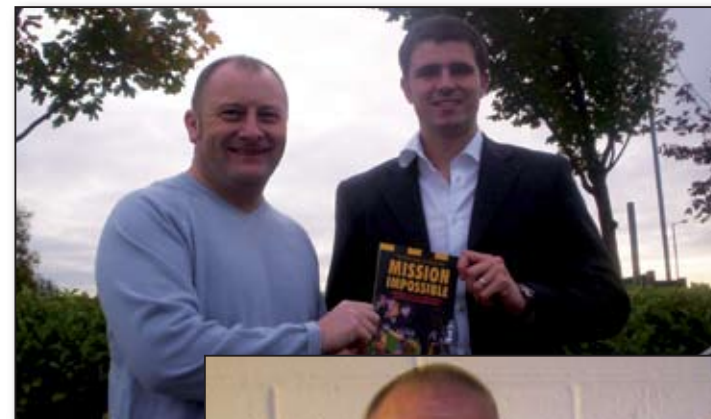
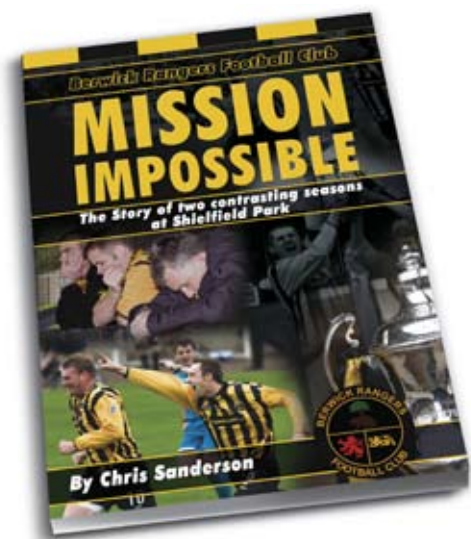
"There was some debate as to whether the previous season's events should be recorded. But on looking back at all the highs and lows of the 2005/06 season, it would have been criminal not have it recorded it in print.

"Writing about the events of the 2005/6 season still hurt as I recalled them. The pain was still there but knowing a happy ending was around the corner didn't make it so bad.

"We've covered the championship season in great depth. Everything from pre-season training, the friendlies and all the action from the league campaign, as well as some great action photos.

"I spoke to a number of the players and they have recalled their thoughts on certain games and there are some great stories that have never been told". This really is a must for every Berwick Rangers supporter!

The Trust are holding an official book signing on Saturday 8th December in the Black and Gold from 12.30pm. All the players will be there to sign copies - if you haven't already bought yours, copies will be available on the day, priced £9.99.



Left: Chris Sanderson with Jordan Smith.
Below: Chris Sanderson with ex-manager John Coughlin. Both said they were delighted with the book.



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Trust Membership

From only £2 per month, you can become a regular Trust member and receive:
A Pin Badge
Membership Card
Members Certificate
Annual Calendar
Regular Newsletters

Join today and help us support football in the local community!

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Support the Trust and help promote your business! You will receive all the regular benefits, plus:
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Junior Members Certificate
Calendar
Newsletters
Plus a Birthday Card

Junior membership is only £5 per year!

Win a V.I.P Day at Shielfield Park!

With membership currently standing at 186, we are only 14 away from having a 200 strong membership.

If we get to 200, it will mark an astonishing achievement - and growth of an average of one new member per week since the Trust was formed. We are looking to existing members to help us reach the 200 mark.

So, if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Trust - friends, family, work mates - please point them in our direction. To join the Trust they simply need to fill in our online application form which can be found on our website or pick up a paper copy from the Trust Shop.

As a thank you, we are offering the 200th member a brand new home strip, with "200" printed on the reverse. We will also be treating the winning member and a friend to matchday hospitality at a game of their choice. Which includes:

Pre and post match hospitality in the Sponsor's Lounge including free complimentary bar.

- Complimentary match programme
- Half-time buffet
- Enclosed seating in Director's Box
- Tour of the Stadium

Please make sure that the new member notes you as the referring member on the online application form. We will not be updating our membership list until we reach 200 active members, just to keep it a fair contest!

So what are you waiting for - refer a friend today and you'll be helping to raise our annual income and you never know, the person you refer may win the prizes and take you along to Shielfield for some matchday hospitality.

Log on to www.berwickrangers.co.uk for further details or why not email us at trust@berwickrangers.co.uk

BRFC Supporters Club have purchased 100 new seats to begin the first phase of the Development of Shielfield Stadium, which was started in October 2007.

Future works will bring the stadium into line with present day Health & Safety guidelines.

The SC would like to give fans the chance to not only continue to give financial support to your Club and to help improve your stadium, but also to have your name added to the Roll Of Honour Wall.

For the sum of £20, you can sponsor a seat and have your name added to the Roll of Honour which will be proudly displayed for all to see in the main stand at Shielfield Park.



To sponsor a seat, please log on to the Supporters Club website @ www.berwickrangers.co.uk or telephone 01896 668961. You can also email centralborders@aol.com

About Central Borders SC

The Borders Branch of the BRFC Supporters Club meet twice a month, everyone is welcome to attend. It is a great to sit around discussing the team, tactics and the highs (and lows?) of being in the 2nd division. Come along and join us, and have a laugh!

- On the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Salmon Inn, Galashiels @ 7.30pm
- On the last Wednesday of every month in the Black Swan, Kelso @ 7.30pm

So come on, show your support to this unique and historic club. For more details phone; Derek01896 668961 or e-mail centralborders@aol.com



New Trust Members

For a month or so after the end of the Club's Championship winning season we continued to be very busy dealing with new membership applications and since our last Newsletter a further 19 members have signed up. Unfortunately we have also lost two during the period so as at 26th November our total membership is 186 comprising of 181 Full Members, 4 Junior Members and 1 Corporate Member.

Here is a list of new members who have signed up since our last Newsletter was

produced: - Aidan Robertson, Pat Curran, Paul Ackland, Martin Swift, Matt Kerr, Louise Bihel, David Cole, Debra Cole, Gregor Carfrae, Peter Unwin, Terry Collins, Fiona Driver, Mike Wilkins, Rune Bohn, Sara Denton, Gerald Connor, Glen Barnes, Owen Robson, Peter Verrall, Michael Howarth, Ian R Scobie, Alan Dougall, Sam Cole and David Taylor.

See page 6 for details of our new membership campaign "Target 200".



Vice-Chairman's Report

A very warm welcome again to you all, our valued members, who are reading our latest newsletter.

As usual, and I always seem to say this, which is a good sign, a lot of work has gone on since our last newsletter. A Trust doesn't run itself and those of us on the board are always involved in something or other. The biggest project by far has been the Championship book. Written by Trust member Chris Sanderson, who has proven to be no flaneur, I'm sure it will be a big hit with Trust members, who can be rightly proud of what their Trust has produced.



good friend John Coughlin. He certainly deserves a 'fair go' as they say. A big Trust welcome to him, if he is half as good a friend to the Trust as his predecessor he'll do for me! We need to start turning things around fast however, but with a football club that appears to be permanently impecunious, that will never be easy, but it needs to be soon before the gap gets any bigger.

Whether we have in place, manager and team-wise, what it will take to achieve this at this stage must be in some doubt. But I'm here to be proven wrong.

The last time I wrote my report we were part way through our inaugural Hall of Fame. This proved popular and inventive with many of you posting your nominations, with one or two surprises in the final analyses. The results and first names in our Hall of Fame have since been available to see on our Trust website.

That's enough for now. My thanks as always to all concerned who have strived to ameliorate our good name, have made this another successful period in the history of our Trust.

Keep the faith
Colin Pike

But beyond that it should prove popular with all Berwick supporters and fans alike. And then off course the wider football community. It is so easy to pick up any old publication on any of your run of the mill Premiership clubs, but this is the first one in over a quarter of a century on our club. Its also great to be able to say that it is the only record of two turbulent seasons in print. I can't of course not mention the other Board members who have given of their time to bring this project to fruition, you know who you are!

Our season thus far. Not as anybody had hoped for, is it. As I write we are marooned at the bottom of the league, with a new manager in place after the departure of our

Donations to BRFC



Four Years and £30,000 later...

On 6th September 2003 we wrote the first cheque for the football club on behalf of BRST. The value was £120 for sponsoring the kit of Mark McCormick. Three months later we bought 2000 shares for £2000 which set us on the way to becoming one of the biggest shareholders in the club.

Since those early days the cheques have kept coming and by August this year we totalled £30,000 in finance contributions to the football club. Without the efforts of you the Trust membership, it is unlikely would have benefited from this finance. In that period only the Supporter's Club have provided more finance to Berwick Rangers. Proving that, although we may all be individual supporters, collectively we have made a significant contribution to the finances at Shielfield.

Below are listed all of the payments made to the club and the reasons for those payments.

Year	Date	Item	Amount
2003	6th Sep	Kit Sponsor	£120.00
	18th Dec	Shares	£2000.00
2004	30th Jan	Shares	£2000.00
	15th Jun	Donation	£1000.00
	24th Jul	Purchase of Club Shop & Bank Account	£2500.00
	27th Jul	U17 sponsorship	£400.00
	23rd Sep	Donation	£1000.00
16th Oct	Badging of U17 Strips	£144.25	

Year	Date	Item	Amount
2005	11th Mar	Donation	£3000.00
	19th May	Shares	£10000.00
	16th Aug	Youth Initiative	£1500.00
	30th Oct	Radio Ad	£316.08
1st Dec	Kit Sponsor	£120.00	
2006	11th Jan	Youth Initiative	£1500.00
	7th Jun	Youth Initiative	£1500.00
	5th Aug	Payment for Gary Wood	£500.00
	25th Sep	Kit Sponsor	£120.00
2nd Dec	Heating Boiler	£1000.00	
2007	2nd Jan	Payment for Gary Wood	£500.00
	30th Jan	Youth Initiative	£100.00
	21st Jul	Reserve Away Kit	£600.00
	17th Aug	Grass Mower	£500.00
	6th Nov	Advertising Board	£323.13
	6th Nov	Programme Advert	£646.25

TOTAL £31,389.71

The above does not include items such as donations of stock made from the shop to the club (totalling in the region of £700) and the reserve team programmes, sales of which go straight to the reserves (approx. £500).

With the total now well into the £30,000s it will only be a matter of time before we reach further landmarks. This is not our achievement, it is your achievement. Congratulations to each and every one of you, the people who have made this happen.



Trust Website

Since we re-launched our new website in March, we have had nothing but positive feedback. Two years ago the committee decided to improve our three main ways of communicating with members - our website, newsletters and e-communications. We feel we have improved things drastically - reflected in our website popularity, which currently boasts over 200 hits per day. Our online application facility has also brought in over 40 new members in 7 months. If you haven't already, check out www.berwickrangers.co.uk for a wealth of information on your Trust and your Club. You can send any comments to trust@berwickrangers.co.uk



New Secretary



I took over as secretary at the beginning of the year, following on from Mark Swanston, an active board member and unofficial Trust model!

It's great that the Trust is always actively promoting our work and Berwick Rangers. I think we can be proud of the initiatives we always seem to lead on, the launch of the book being probably the most ambitious yet. I am impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of the Board, especially with younger members (not that I am old!!).

Our commitment to the first team and development of football locally in general

speaks for itself. Linking up with Supporters Direct keeps us abreast of developments and in contact with other Trusts, we always send two or three members to the Scottish conference, and they bring back new ideas and feedback from discussions on the political side of the game.

I look forward to 2008 and whatever new projects it brings.

Karen Thorburn

Secretary, Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

TRUST ATTEND NORTH EAST PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Trust Chairman **JOHN BELL** (pictured above with Middlesbrough manager Gareth Southgate) mixed with the great and good of North East football in September at the Footballer of the Year Awards organised by the Prince's Trust. John is Chairman of the Northumberland Prince's Trust panel, distributing over £10,000 each year in grants to young people. Winners of 06/07 awards included James Milner of Newcastle (Young Footballer of the Year), Jonathan Woodgate (Footballer of the Year) and Nyrton Nosworthy of Sunderland (Coca-Cola League Player of the Year). Read all about it at www.princes-trust.org.uk and follow the links to the North-East region.

Before the evening began John approached one of the hosts, Simon O'Rourke from BBC Look North, and asked if Berwick Rangers' championship success could get a mention in an event dominated by the 'big three' plus Hartlepool and Darlington. Sure enough, later in the proceedings, the 'Dream Team' duly got a mention - maybe John's cheers won't be edited out by Sky!

TRUST HOST QUIZ

Our very own George "Magners Magnusson" Thompson compiled a very challenging set of questions that stretched every sinew in the brain as eight teams battled to become quiz supremos at the event held in the Pilot back in August.

The egghead duo of "Ruddick's Return" and "Feathery Children" fought a tooth and nail battle right till the end with the latter just being pipped by the auld heeds by just two points. The winning team then received their £100 prize and kindly donated it back to the Trust. What a fantastic gesture from them.

With Davie Scott providing the Pies n Pasties and HP providing the sauce, along with some of mine hosts jokes, all of which were washed down with Tom Wood's Best Bitter and an occasional Deuchars chaser, ending yet another enjoyable night from the Trust. We have started so I'll finish.

Occasions like these are very important in getting the name of Trust out and about town and in particular aiming at non Trust members' or people who have no interest in Berwick Rangers. We are after all a family club and need to make people aware of who we are and what we are about. Another starter for ten will be held very soon.

SD CONFERENCE 2007

Supporters Direct held their fifth annual conference on Saturday 30th June 2007 in Glasgow. George Thompson attended the event on behalf of the Trust and thoroughly enjoyed the seminars he attended.

The day consisted of an opening session, four morning workshops with a further four following lunch and the final plenary session where the whole days events were discussed.

The guest speaker was Gordon Smith in his first role as the new Chief Executive of the S.F.A. and it was really interesting to hear his views on how he hoped to take forward football in Scotland and the key role that the Trusts play in his new vision. It was really refreshing to hear views that were not solely concentrating on the Premier division as well although the main talking point was of an SPL 2. It was also nice to find out that as one of the pioneers of the Trust movement how highly regarded we are in Scotland in what we are achieving with such a small fan base.

Supporters Direct
in Scotland

CHAMPIONS ON THE MOVE!

The more observant of you will have noticed a taxi in Berwick sporting our logo and web address, which has been spreading the word since May. Two-Way Taxis kindly agreed to have their Skoda Octavia emblazoned with our branding and also, as you can see from the picture below, "Champions 2006/2007".



One good turn deserves another, so if you need a taxi please call Andy at **Two-Way Taxi** on **0800 8818322**

SUPPORTERS TRUST RECEIVE ANONYMOUS DONATION!

It is with some pleasure, that we can tell you of a very welcome donation made to your Trust this Autumn. The source of this donation has requested that they remain anonymous, so we shall of course respect that wish. What we are able to tell you is that the individual concerned made the donation on the basis that the work we undertake as an organisation is of value to the wider role of the Football Club in the community. We are extremely happy to accept the **£500** donation!

I'm sure you will agree a marvelous gesture. We shall off course work extremely hard to put our friends' donation to good use.

END OF SEASON RAFFLE

You will shortly receive a mailshot regarding our **End of Season Raffle**, which is to be drawn on Saturday 19th April (home vs Raith Rovers). Please help us to raise as much money as possible by selling as many tickets as possible!

NEW SECRETARY

We have recently had a change in administration at the Trust. Mark Swanston has stepped down as Secretary, mainly due to the fact that he has recently become a father! Taking over the role is current committee member Karen Thorburn. We would like to thank Mark for all his work, especially the organisation of the 2007 A.G.M. and congratulations on his new arrival!

MORE SUPPORT FOR YOUTHS

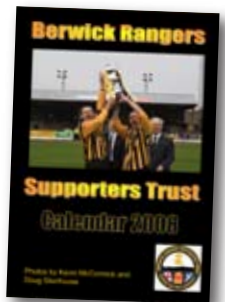
At the start of this season, your Trust Board decided to continue our support of Youth football at our club.

Our sponsorship this season carried an extra dimension, in that the Trust logo was put on the front of the reserves away shirts, the first time our logo has adorned a BRFC shirt, progress indeed! As well as that, Colin Pike and Paul Smith took the decision to carry on producing a match programme for their now East of Scotland League games which formed part of our overall sponsorship package for this season. This gave the lads the chance to sell adverts in the programme as well as individual match sponsorship.

Putting everything together this takes the Trust sponsorship of the reserves this season to over one thousand pounds. Money we hope you will agree will help to cement the foundation of our club and take us forward into coming seasons.

NEW CALENDAR

In repeat of last year, all members of the Trust will receive a 2008 Dream Team calendar featuring Kevin McCormick's photos of the season so far. For non-members, this must-have item will cost only £5, available from the Trust Shop at Shielfield Park.



please support our sponsors as much as they support us...

CAM

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Funky-Foto

PORTRAITS

You can now purchase prints from the Championship day online at www.funkyfoto.co.uk. Choose from over 200 pictures and have them delivered to your door in just a few days! For details on hiring Funky Foto to cover an event, please contact us on 07974137277 or email info@funkyfoto.co.uk

www.funkyfoto.co.uk



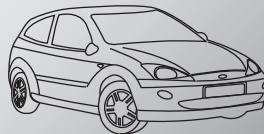
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