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**Summer 2005**  
**Free to Members**  
**Issue No. 3**

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## **BROOKS MILESON MAKES FURTHER DONATION**

### **Millionaire Tycoon Hands Over £12,000**

**Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust has gained a further stake in the football club following a second substantial donation from the millionaire benefactor Brooks Mileson.**

Mr. Mileson donated £10,000 several weeks ago after an approach by the Trust. At their recent AGM, Trust members decided to inject that money into the Club in return for 10,000 shares.

After hearing that the Trust had also been offered 40,000 issued shares, Mr. Mileson then offered an additional £12,000 to complete their purchase, raising the Trust's total shareholding to 55,000 - a 25% stake in the Club and making them the second largest shareholder.

"We're delighted that Brooks has supported us again," said Trust Secretary David Cook, "He's very passionate about Supporters Trusts and what they stand for".

Gretna, owned by Mr. Mileson, have just secured promotion as Champions of the Scottish Third Division, and ironically, it looks

like they may be swapping places with Berwick who have been adrift at the foot of the Second Division for most of the season.



Brooks Mileson

Trust Chairman John Bell previously served as a Director at Berwick Rangers until his controversial resignation last November. "My position as the Trust representative had become untenable at that point," said Mr. Bell. "I think some Directors see the Trust as a threat to their status and we don't enjoy a very constructive relationship at present. However, we are fully committed to working with all partners to maintaining the presence of a successful, community-orientated league club in Berwick where the supporters have a credible say in the way in which the club is run.

We have recently appointed two new Trust members to the Trust Board in Duns solicitor Ronald Kirk and Berwick Rangers finance officer Neil Simpson, who we believe will assist with the continued development of the

Trust as a leading supporter of the football club."



### **Cheque Handed Over**

**Brooks Mileson met with Trust committee members on Tuesday 26th April in Berwick.**

He kindly signed and handed over a cheque to the value of £12,000 for the Trust to purchase 40,000 shares. Once again, a huge thanks to Brooks for his support and also making the effort to come to Berwick for an informal talk with the committee. We would also like to wish his Gretna side good luck for life in the Second Division.

**NEW WEB ADDRESS: [www.berwicktrust.co.uk](http://www.berwicktrust.co.uk)**

# SUMMER NEWS SNIPPETS...

## TRUST A.G.M.

The Trust held its inaugural AGM on 2nd April 2005, at the Black and Gold Social Club. The AGM saw a healthy attendance of 40 members, and heard chairman John Bell report on a successful year (to 31st May 2004) of activity which included the donation of £5000 to the football club to assist with general running costs and a further £4000 in exchange for 4000 shares.

Two new Trust members were appointed to serve on the Trust Board, Duns solicitor Ronald Kirk, and Berwick Rangers' own finance officer, Neil Simpson. Both are long-standing supporters and their personal and professional experience will assist with the continued development of the Trust. On a final note, the Trust Board reiterated the important role now played by Trusts across the UK - there are currently 123 in existence, whilst the Trust movement has the weight of government policy behind it. The Trust will be looking to expand its partnership activity in the coming year.

## TOUR OF HUNGARY & CZECH



The Berwick Rangers football club have once again been jetting off to the continent to represent the town and the football club. This time they are touring Hungary where they will play a game in Budapest and the Czech Republic where they have two games arranged- one in a small town in the East called Zabreh and another in Prague. They will be sporting the Trust logo on their shirts as the Trust lent a helping hand to acquire a set of strips. Good luck to the lads.

## TIGER JOINS TRUST

Ex-Berwick player Tommy Graham has agreed to sign up to the Trust. He played over 300 games in the 80's and 90's and retired in 1997 with a Testimonial match against Newcastle United. We hope he is the first in a long line of ex-players who will sign up to the Trust, we have contacted other ex-players and await their response. Thanks to Tommy for his support.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Trust are currently conducting a membership drive as we look to further our already huge success. There are now over 120 Trusts in the UK and over 130 members of our Trust. Without the membership, the Trust wouldn't exist so it is vital to sustain a healthy membership. We would ask you to help us in our bid to reach 200 members by the end of the year. We are asking every member to try and sign someone up to the Trust. Even if only half of our members manage this, it would help us break the 200 barrier and increase our annual income by at least £1500. There is a small tear off slip at the bottom of this page, fill it in and post it, fax it or email- the details are below.

## SUPPORTERS DIRECT

Berwick Rangers were represented again at the Supporters Direct in Scotland's 3rd Annual Conference at Stirling University on Sunday 17th April, in the shape of John Bell and Nick Vagg. Patricia Ferguson MSP, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport gave the keynote address, re-affirming the Executive's support for football Trusts and outlining the 'Sport for All' ethos being promoted through the Active Schools programme, into which £12 million has been invested. It is also an opportunity for Trusts to promote their community commitments by strengthening links between schools and clubs. The Executive had also commissioned an Interim Report on Football Development and linked this with an Action Plan for Youth Football.

There were another set of eight workshops with John attending the Community Clubs and Financial Best Practice sessions and Nick, the Scottish Federation of Supporters and Equality Issues & Football sessions. There was an entertaining question and answer session at the end of the Conference after which John and Nick also had the chance to say thank you, in person, to a certain Mr Mileson!

## NEW WEBSITE ONLINE

Some time ago the Trust Committee identified the need for greater communication with trust members. In an effort to move this forward a new website is currently under construction. However until that is fully operational a temporary news page is available at [www.berwicktrust.co.uk](http://www.berwicktrust.co.uk). Our resident website expert Paul Smith has devised this as well as designing the new site.

All new information on anything to do with the trust can be found here. Thanks to Paul's knowledge, information will be posted by all committee members (when he shows us what to do) which should ensure greater variety and content and also take away the requirement for one person to be solely responsible. This is just one of the ways we hope to be able to maintain contact with our members.

## JOIN THE TRUST! FROM ONLY £2 PER MONTH

The on-going success of the Trust is down to the members who support it. We are currently looking to break the 200 members barrier and we would ask you to help us do it. If you are not currently a member, or you know someone who would like to join us, please complete the form and send it to 9-12 Golden Square Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 1BG or Fax to 01289 309680. If you would like, a Trust representative can call at your house or workplace to get you signed up and talk you through what the Trust is all about. Alternatively we can post you an application form or visit us at [www.berwicktrust.co.uk](http://www.berwicktrust.co.uk).

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