



Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

Working for Club & Community

TRUST MEMBERS NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2007 • FREE TO MEMBERS • ISSUE NO. 10

SPECIAL CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

“My greatest ever achievement in football”

£1

In this issue...



We look back at the Championship season



The players tell us about the 'title-winning feeling' and their hopes for next season

Trust members celebrate title



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**Newsletter No. 10
Summer 2007**

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Hello and welcome to the latest, and very special, edition of the BRFC Supporters Trust newsletter.

Special indeed, as its not often that we have cause to celebrate a Championship! Twenty-eight years since the last one, to be precise, and those of us who were fortunate enough to be at the nail-biting climax to the season against Arbroath witnessed the culmination of a great effort by all concerned with Berwick Rangers.

There's no doubt that for two seasons in succession John Coughlin has done an extraordinary job at Shielfield, and success was fair reward for a huge amount of work put in this year. Even the most die-hard supporter would have struggled to dream of this achievement after the exodus of experienced players from the Club, and the Trust can take some satisfaction from the part we played in helping to bring about the signing of Gary Wood.

There's no doubt too that support from the terracing has been appreciated by the players, and although often small in number, the vocal encouragement provided throughout the year surely helped in some way.

As is customary, I'd like to thank all those connected to the Trust for their efforts in providing a worthwhile service to fans, community and Club, and once again highlight the huge amount of work undertaken by a relatively small number of individuals. The excellent work done in supporting the Youth Initiative, newsletters, the Trust web-site and Trust Shop, for example, could not happen without the dedication and whole-hearted commitment of perhaps less than half-a-dozen people which the Trust are extremely fortunate to count on as members.

The Trust continues to grow steadily, but we really would appreciate some 'new blood' on the Trust Board to keep development going. So if you have a little time to spare, please make yourself known. Thanks to all who attended the recent AGM - as organisations go, we always have a very healthy percentage of our membership in attendance. Our guest speakers John Coughlin and Elaine Millar from Supporters Direct did an excellent job of keeping us entertained and interested.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition, and please feel encouraged to put pen to paper and contribute a few words for the next one. There's a lot of interesting stories out there waiting to be heard.

Take care, and have a safe and enjoyable summer, and roll on Division Two!

Best wishes,

John Bell (Trust Chairman)

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**SPECIAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
ISSUE**

**8 PAGES OF COVERAGE
START OVERLEAF**



Everyone has their own personal recollections of what happened on that glorious afternoon where the 28-year-long wait for a Championship finally ended.

I'm sure we could fill the Trust newsletter five times over with everyone's memories of that memorable day - from the moment when Assistant Manager Matt Kerr addressed The Duckets moments before kick-off with a gripped fist to fire the fans up ready for the war-cry right until Robbie Horn and Grant McNicoll received the trophy.

Speaking to the media after the final whistle, manager John Coughlin said: "I've won championships with both Alloa and St Mirren in the past as a No2 to Tom Hendrie but this one means the most as it's my first title as a manager in my own right."

Trust Vice-Chairman Colin Pike stood on the terrace at Central Park back in 1979 when the Dream Team won their last league championship at Cowdenbeath.

Colin said: "I can remember very little about that night at Cowdenbeath all those years ago so I was determined to take as much in of the day as I could especially at the end of the game because you never know how long we may wait to lift another championship again.



"This success means just as much as the first one did but this was more of a team effort because the last one was very much the Dave Smith show - he was very instrumental on the field."

Without doubt the most touching story of the day is recalled by ardent Black & Gold fan David Morton whose partner's son Tai Meakin was mascot for the day.

The staunch trust member paid tribute to talisman striker Kevin Haynes for a tear-jerking gesture he showed towards Tai seconds before the big kick-off.

David added: "I had arranged for Tai to be mascot for the day for the Arbroath game well before we knew that the game would take on as big as importance as it did.

"Both Tai and I witnessed all the pre-match build-up from the tunnel area - the boys were so up for it. However - one thing will live me forever.

"The team were getting ready to go into their pre-match huddle and Tai was looking a bit left out of things as he stood outside the group. But Big Kevin seen him standing there all on his own and called him over and tucked him under his arm into the huddle amongst the team - what a gesture by the big man, this was the biggest day in most of these players careers yet they still had time to make Tai's day by involving him in the circle as Robbie lead the battle-cry to ensure the team let no one down.

"Footballers often get bad press that they don't care about the fans - that cannot be said about our players - what a bunch."



Tia Meakin with Gary Wood and Kevin Haynes



Fans Celebrate: (L to R) Dale Jones, Ian Gregory, Michael Bell, Martin McLeary, Mark Swanston, Rich Swanston, Brian Parkin, Steve Parkin and David Morton



Above: Kevin Haynes and Iain Diack.
Below: the Ducket in full swing



Ian Little and Gary O'Connor with the trophy



Supporters Trust Player of the Year
Robbie Horn couldn't hide his emotion
after receiving the accolade at the club's
annual presentation night in The Black
& Gold Club shortly after clinching that
elusive third division championship.

The rock solid defender's contribution to the title chase didn't go unnoticed by trust members who were polled in the weeks leading up to the final game of the season.

Speaking in the aftermath of the championship celebrations, Robbie said: "This award means so much to me. "If the truth was known I always felt I struggled to win the fans over during my first couple of seasons after I moved to Berwick from Forfar.



I seemed to get a tough reception at the time but I feel that's behind me and the support that not just me but the team has received over the past couple of seasons has been immense.

"If anything that spurred us on to go one better and lift the title for the fans who have been superb as well as everyone connected with the club.

"I've been touched with all the awards I picked up – it wasn't until a few days after the championship win that everything began to sink in and I must admit when I looked back I felt a bit emotional.

"But it was a team effort and I must pay tribute to both Grant McNicoll and Jordan Smith who were both immense during the season at the back with myself.

"It has been a long time since Berwick won a title and we all knew what that meant to everyone connected with not just the club but the town too. I'm sure we'll savour all the memories over the next few weeks during the summer break."



Man for all occasions Grant McNicoll
has sampled all the highs and lows that
Berwick Rangers have faced in a ten year
career at Shielfield Park.

Promotions, relegations, cup shocks, various heartbreaks and playing on all the big stages – the long serving defender has been in the trenches for all of them but the championship win is the icing on the cake insists the 29-year-old

Grant added: "I played in all the big cup shocks against Rangers and Hearts, played on some big stages and played in a promotion winning side back in 2000 but make no bones about it this is the pinnacle of my career.

"There have been great players at this club who have never been able to win a championship medal so to win something like a title makes you appreciate what we have achieved.

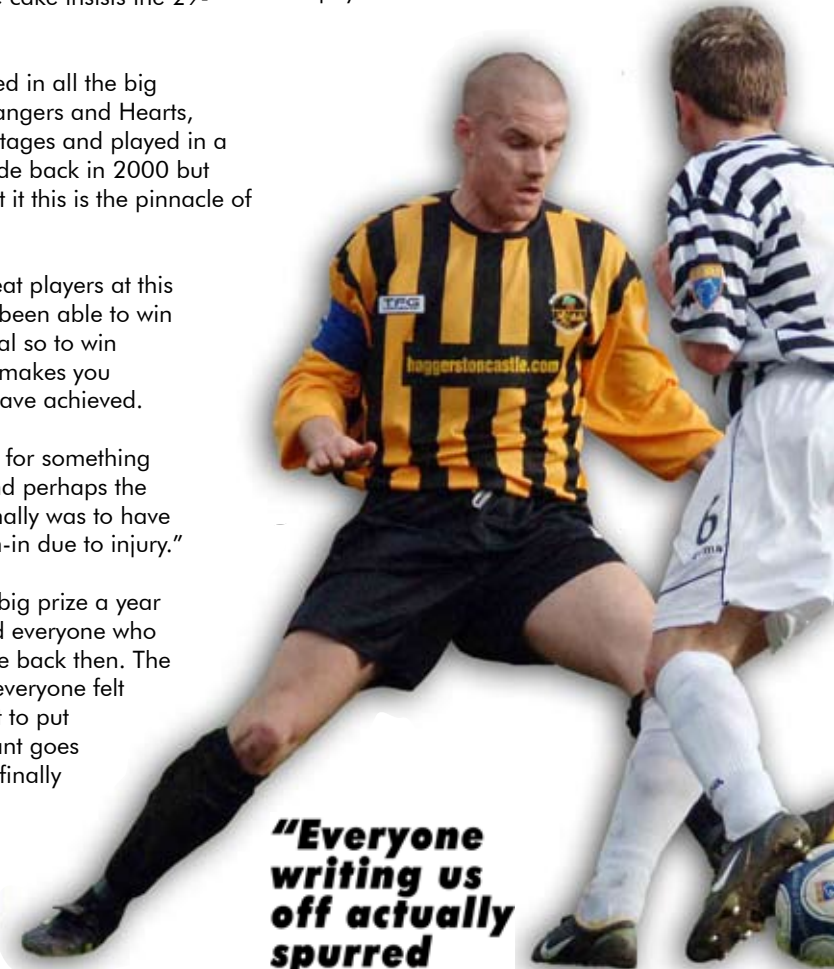
"I've waited ten years for something like this to happen and perhaps the only downside personally was to have missed out on the run-in due to injury."

Being so close to the big prize a year ago no doubt spurred everyone who suffered the heartache back then. The hurt and pain which everyone felt will always be difficult to put into words but as Grant goes onto say can now be finally put to the sword for good.

Grant continued: "To be so close last time around and then lose the bulk of that squad

speaks volumes for what the gaffer and his backroom staff and this squad has achieved.

"Everyone writing us off actually spurred us on and don't forget we were a good 13 points behind leaders East Fife at one stage before we went on that record breaking run of eight back-to-wins in the league which paved the lifting of the Championship trophy." **CS**



"Everyone writing us off actually spurred us on"

The Title Run-in - from afar!

A three week holiday in Barbados might sound like heaven to most people, but for one Berwick fan, a trip to the sun-kissed island proved to be, at times, far from paradise. The title run in was an exciting and very nervous time for us all, but spare a thought for committee member **GEORGE THOMPSON.**

After following Berwick Rangers home and away all season, George had booked a trip, in January 2006, to watch England in the Cricket World Cup, which happened to clash with our own title run-in.

George reported back on a regular basis and kept this record of being 4000 miles from Shielfield Park whilst all the action happened.

Elgin City (h) – 7 April

Delays, delays, delays, only in the UK can a plane be delayed for 3 hours (longer than the flight itself to Gatwick) still it would give me chance to watch Jeff and the boys discuss the big boys and hopefully get a glimpse of the DT hammering Elgin and getting a step nearer to the Holy Grail.

A Wetherspoons bar meal with Magners is hardly the most exotic way to start the hols but if it meant seeing Diack's name on screen that would do for me. No names appear on screen and the flight is called never mind may catch it at Gatwick on route to the hotel or text the gruesome twosome would suffice.

With all the screens and duty free shops at Gatwick I cannot believe there is no scores on. Still Swano turns up trumps with the devastating draw outcome and a Haynes sending off. Not the start needed for the start of hols.

Albion Rovers (a) – 14 April

First week off to a flier as I watched England struggle to beat Bangladesh and the Aussies hammer Ireland but for the main event I have managed to get permission from the hotel manager so I could use the internet to access the scores on a Saturday between 10 and 12.

Sky Sports online service is just as good as the TV

version (just a few seconds behind in fact) so this would do the just fine. Sitting down with the Pina Colada's to hand (watching the DT turns you to drink at times) ready for battle then, Goal Kettering have scored, this is going to be long afternoon. As more people crowd around the screen wanting to know the scores of their teams the banter ensues and before long I am up off the seat, we have scored, Stuart Fraser no less, well that sends me into overdrive and I start my very own Ducktvision song contest much to the amusement of others around the computer who thought I was mad (if only they knew the half). Half time arrived- more Pina Colada's needed and just on queue my good lady arrives with them, meaning I don't need to leave the only seat in the room that would inevitably have been stolen by Mick, a Hammer or Steve, a Gooner (Cockney geezers can be well dodgy). Still on with the second half and no further score but the Smokies have beaten Queens Park so they do mean business then, oh well! The decider is now next week.

Friday 20 April

To calm pre-match nerves we go on a cruise with former West Indies Barbados legends and end up meeting Joel Garner (god he is huge), Gordon Greenidge and Sir Garfield Sobers

Arbroath (h) D-Day 21 April

England now out of the World Cup but playing the hosts today in a Carnival atmosphere, this is what it is all about - the noise, the passion, two sets of fans shouting on their teams, no hang on that is Shielfield, that's where I should be, behind the mic egging on the Ducket or winding up the Smokies.

4000 miles from Shielfield watching Cricket, I just do not want to be here, I should be in the Pilot for the Brekky then the Lowpin Trout.

England are being taken to the cleaners by the West Indies openers (beep, beep) a text from Smudge, I cannot look, here goes Get In!! 1-0 Diack. I am the only Englishman with a smile on my face and shouting, can we keep it up, how are we playing, how many glory hunters are there?

All these questions and more will have to wait just now as I need a drink and it is quite a walk. Another text in, kick off was delayed to allow the crowd in, good lord how many are there?

Midday now, High Noon only Mads Dogs and Englishmen go out apparently, now added to that is a desperate Berwick fan who wants to know his team's result. Thirty two degrees with no breeze, still should only take a few minutes to get through to Smudge. No answer, again no answer, try Swano instead, no answer, again no answer this is not

what I wanted and can mean one of two things; they are jumping around like idiots or are so gutted they have broken their phones I am presuming the former but could do with confirmation.

A text from JP confirms we are champions, fantastic now I need to speak to somebody though so I will keep trying them. On and off for twenty minutes with only an occasional connection, can hear the ducket in full voice and brings tears to the eyes, have returned to my seat now and must look a right sight but do I care, not on your life I do, I maybe far away but after all I have been through watching them over the years, I sure as hell will enjoy it.

Emotions are running high now and the Cricket is starting to get exciting as well, life can be hard can't it as I want it over with quickly so I can check Pie and Bovril.

Well would you credit it the closest finish yet on the second last ball but an England win to round off the day, right now to surf websites.

It is amazing to think that being so far away you can actually be part of celebration but thanks to the web it can happen and within six hours of it happening I was watching the trophy in Robbie and Grant's hands with over 2000 there.

Now what would any Berwick fan do now, yes that's it I will get hammered big style (more than normal that is). One great advantage of all inclusive is free drink, so now I can try and concoct a Championship cocktail, in fact why not two (one black and one gold obviously) after several attempts at each I think I have managed to come up with them just in time for last orders. Fourteen of these please Eugene (not all for me though) and we toasted the Dream Team long into the night as we hit the strip outside the hotel.

Sunday 22 April

No sleep, then up to watch the Toon play Chelsea at 8.30am, football in these parts are no good for those who like a lie in. More celebrations follow back at the hotel with the full repertoire of songs being sung, then of all things a complaint about the songs, only tongue in cheek though as it turns out the couple is from, of all places, wait for it, ARBROATH. All that way and meet some Smokies. He then comes up with the most ridiculous question ever - "did Arbroath win?" After some cheeky comments about anything and everything he walked away knowing full well who the champions were. End up managing a Cricket team Mango Bay Blasters who are playing a St Peter's Parish Select containing Pedro Collins (he is touring England with the West Indies this month) in a supposed friendly cricket match.

Kensington Oval, Barbados



Monday 23 April

Should calm the celebrations down now, then again maybe not, one more night should do it. What a decision that was as I end up being in company with Freddie Flintoff, no less.

Missing out on the club's second ever championship was always going to be agonising if the eventuality did arise, but I was over the moon going through the agony as that had meant we were number one, top of the tree and cream of the crop.

From a distance I was able to keep in touch with all the happenings but it was not the same as being there with my friends going through all the emotions and build up to the big event and the following aftermath of parties and celebrations.

Whilst I tried my best to celebrate, it didn't mean anything and to have had the chance to share the moment with fans who like me have been following the DT for years to Cowden, Stranraer, Forfar, Elgin etc to finally see silverware at Shielfield it is something I will have to live with. Let's hope it is not nearly as long the next time as I will be drawing my pension by then, but it is what following a wee team is all about- that magic moment when you are the winners, when you have a (c) after your name on tv and in the press, when you are the SPECIAL ONE.

Well done to Coff and the boys for doing it on the park and for Bob and the directors for backing him off it. Now for that open top bus from Highcliffe to Highfields!



The bear with Bobby Sidey



Our Trust bear all set to spread the word!



Berwick fan Walter Deicher stopped by to chat to the bear



Our big-eared friend with a fan who had travelled from Seattle to watch Berwick v Arbroath



The bear with Trust member Ian Greggory

On Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st April, the Trust took the streets of Berwick to drum up some extra support for the title decider against Arbroath - with the help of our very own Trust bear.

Committee member Paul Smith and Trust member Cameron Waterhouse decided to take the initiative as the football club themselves didn't have any special plans to promote the game against Arbroath at Shielfield.

The lads spent much of Thursday and Friday distributing 2000 leaflets to over 50 shops and supermarkets and 25 pubs and restaurants.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning they were joined by Trust member Ian Greggory who helped them hand out over 1000 leaflets to members of the public on Marygate.

The sight of a giant bear standing outside the O2 store certainly attracted some attention of passing shoppers and motorists!

The response from the public was excellent with many people wishing us luck. We even bumped into a fan, originally from Berwick, who had made the trip from Seattle for the game. As part of the campaign, we also ran a competition on Radio Borders and our own website, with the two winners picking up a pair of free tickets to see Berwick v Arbroath.

We would like to think that our promotion of the game went some way towards generating the bumper crowd - over 2,000 turned up to see us lift the title.



As usual this season the Trust asked its members to vote for their own player of the year. This was done as the season drew to a close using our new website and another innovation for us, the Trust emails, which are now going out to members on a regular basis with a variety of topics. Votes were also taken at our AGM near the end of the season.

Our members voted, and a clear winner emerged. **ROBBIE HORN** was the man who attracted the most votes from you our members and I think you'll all agree he is indeed, a popular choice.

This season as well, we thought it appropriate to make an award to the Youth Initiative player of the year, given our continued

relationship and sponsorship of the youth team.

No votes available here though, so we asked the Initiative coaches, and they said the most deserving recipient amongst their ranks was **JASON INGLIS**. We are particularly proud that we alone chose to recognise anyone from the youth team, others may wish to take note. Hopefully an initiative you, the membership, would have chosen to back us on.



The awards themselves were presented after the championship winning game against Arbroath in a packed Black & Gold, together with the awards from the Football and Supporters Club. Our very own chairman John Bell did the honours for our awards with both recipients looking pleased as punch.

CENTRAL BORDERS SUPPORTERS CLUB UPDATE

Fraser Scoops Central Borders Award

STUART FRASER was the Player of the Year. Chosen by the members of the Borders Branch, Kenny from Kelso was our nominated Supporter of the Year, and he presented Stuart with his trophy. Thank you Stuart for your contribution to the Wee Gers.



CONDOLENCES are offered to the friends and family of Pete Hardie, from Duns. Pete had been a supporter of BRFC for over 60 years. He died suddenly on Monday 23rd April 2007, 40 hours after watching his team win the league...our thoughts and sympathies are offered to all who knew him.

The Borders Branch of the Supporters Club meet on the Last Wednesday of every month in the Black Swan, Kelso. Usually, everyone is there by 7.30pm, but you can come and go as you please. For more info contact Derek on 01896 668961 or drop an e-mail to; centralborders@aol.com

An idea we thought might be of interest to Trust members of all ages, and something that we know is unique to BRFC in general. The end product would be something, that in the opinion of the existing Trust membership, would recognise the most popular players to have worn the Black & Gold.

This of course does not necessarily mean the best, as this term is purely down to the individual eye. Voting is open to all current Trust members, with the only stipulation being that you must have seen



all the players you nominate in the flesh, so to speak! You can nominate as many or as few players as you choose.

Voting thus far has been slow but a certain pattern is emerging with eleven names drawing clear of the pack. At the time of writing it's interesting to note that the fore runner has attracted 5.83% of the total vote. Thus far 85 different players have been nominated.

However, voting will remain open for some time to allow all members the chance to get their nominations in.

The general idea is that the eleven players polling the highest number of votes will be duly inducted in the first year. At this stage we will endeavour to contact said players and give them the good news. Now whilst realising this is hardly a life changing decision, we'd hope the recipients would be happy to hear of their enduring popularity amongst the clubs fans who are Trust members. Then in each subsequent year,

after another period of voting, three more players each year will also be inducted.

So, if you're reading this and haven't voted yet, and there are quite a number of you, get moving. You can send them via our website or by snail mail with our address also on the site and of course this newsletter.

The success of the "Dream Team" on the pitch and our new website coming online have both contributed to the continuing growth in our membership. Since our last Newsletter, 19 new members have signed up (seven via our website) while we have lost 2 therefore as at 1st May 2007 our total membership is 169 of which we have 167 Full Members and 2 Junior Members.

Currently a further 10 website applications for membership are still in course of completion but hopefully most, if not all, will sign up in the next few days. While the bulk of applications are spread throughout the UK I have one outstanding at present from Western Australia – this is the furthest distant so far.

For a considerable period our initial target was to sign up 150 members and this was achieved around the time of our last Newsletter. Our new target is 200 members and if most of the outstanding website applications sign up we are over halfway there. However we need your help in promoting the Trust at every opportunity and encouraging others to join.

Those of you who pay your subscription on an annual basis will shortly receive a reminder that this is due in June. Of course, some members prefer to pay at the start of the new season and we are happy to accommodate this.

Finally I include a list of new members who have signed up since our last Newsletter was produced: -

189	David Grant	Swinton, Manchester
190	Duncan Plummer	York
191	Ian Patterson	Malaga, Spain
192	Greg Stone	Newcastle
193	Craig Atkinson	Uxbridge, Mddx
194	John Burton	Sheffield
195	David Blackburn	Berwick
196	John Anstiss	Fulham, London
197	Ian Runciman	Amble
198	Cam Waterhouse	Spittal
199	Robert McEwan	Alnwick
200	Keith Howe	Darlington
201	Ryan Waterhouse	Spittal
202	Marc Hope	Lowestoft, Suffolk
209	Morag Driver	Crieff, Perthshire
210	Mark Brooker	Spittal
211	Gareth Dennett	Port Glasgow
213	Roy Murray	Ferrers
J02	Liam Smith	Tweedmouth

JOIN THE TRUST FROM ONLY £2 PER MONTH!

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!

Corporate Membership

Support the Trust and help promote your business! You will receive all the regular benefits, plus:

- A free advert in our Newsletter
- A free advert on our website

Corporate membership is from only £10 per month (£120 per year)!

Junior Membership

Sign up your children or order a members pack as a present for a friend's child or relative.

- A Pin Badge
- Membership Card
- Junior Members Certificate
- Calendar
- Newsletters
- Plus a Birthday Card

Junior membership is only £5 per year!



Trust A.G.M.

The Trust AGM was held in the Black and Gold Social Club on Saturday, 7th April prior to the home game against Elgin City, and attracted a healthy attendance of 35 members.

To take the edge off some of the more mundane procedural business, the Trust invited BRFC manager John Coughlin and Supporters Direct Development Officer Elaine Miller to speak at the meeting.

Elaine gave a short presentation on future plans by that organisation to develop their working relationship with established trusts and explore how support to trusts can be tailored to meet the differing requirements of each trust. The message was a welcome one - that Supporters Direct are evolving with the increasing number of trusts and adapting their role to help ensure that the momentum of the trust movement is sustained and developed.

John Coughlin once again proved his credentials as a natural public speaker, even putting microphone-hogger and Trust chairman John Bell in the shade. He outlined his footballing philosophy and his future ambitions, and best news of all was his commitment to remaining at Shielfield for at least the duration of his current

contract. The club are fortunate to have Coff as manager, and the only worry is that the more successful he becomes, the greater the likelihood that he'll figure on someone else's radar. So let's enjoy what he brings to the club while we can.

As for the rest of the business, Mark Swanston announced his intention to step down as trust secretary as soon as a replacement can be found, although he will continue to serve on the Trust board. A big thanks to Mark for his excellent stewardship of the trust's administrative work, and if you're interested in succeeding him, please contact John Bell, Trust chairman. You will need to be a Trust member to be appointed as secretary.

The 2 outstanding vacancies on the trust board have been filled by members David Cook and Steven Smith.

John Bell presented the trust's business plan for 2007/08, which was agreed by the membership, and details of which will be announced separately on our website. It was also agreed to reappoint Berwick-based accountants Greaves, West and Ayre as the Trust's auditors for the new financial year.



Football Club A.G.M.

The trust was represented at the football club AGM by board members John Bell, David Cook and Gordon Dickson.

- The most notable issues arising from the meeting were:
- the reduction in directors loans and the conversion of these to shareholdings the reduction in the overall debt at the football club
- the appointment of Bill Parkin, chairman of the supporters club, to the football club board

- consideration by the board of a newly-published paper setting out SPL2 proposals, and the implications of these for the football club
- the development of closer ties with Berwick Rangers juniors
- the U-19 side joining the East of Scotland Division One next season (with scope to play first team squad members returning from injury, suspension etc)

The meeting lasted for approximately 38 minutes and was attended by 15 shareholders.

Champions through a Lens!



www.theducket.com

Those who regularly attend games home and away, will know the familiar sight of a Berwick fan snapping away from the sidelines. That fan is KEVIN McCORMICK, Supporters Trust member and the man who brings you theducket.com.

His love of football photography started years ago, as Kevin explains: "back in 1999 I bought my first digital camera. It was a 1.3 mega-pixel with something like an 8MB card for storing the pictures on. Nowadays if you bought a mobile with that sort of spec you'd be disappointed, such is the progress in this field. The biggest problem with smaller digital cameras is the short delay between pressing the shutter and it capturing the action. In football that can often be the difference between the ball and players being in shot and not! So you tend to get a lot of wasted shots, however in the digital world that doesn't really matter. Over time I taught myself to anticipate the action and that meant I had more useable pictures, however when I eventually bought a better camera that didn't have a delay I had to get used to pressing the shutter when the action took places and not before!"

"I've been involved in running various guises of Berwick Rangers website since around the same time but they can be time consuming to do properly and since my son was born in 2004 I've been concentrating mainly on taking photographs at the games and putting those on www.theducket.com for all to see."

Adding: "The photos you see on the website are often crops from the full size picture. This trick cuts out a lot of empty grass and fills the frame with on the players and the ball. At Shielfield and other grounds we visit regularly, you can always get pretty close to the pitch which helps a lot. I don't really want to be too far away from the Berwick faithful either because it's easy to lose track of the how the game is going when you're watching it through a camera lens and the fans reactions are a good way of hearing how it's going."

Kevin was present with his camera on Championship day: "the reaction to the photos on the website has been great. When we won

the championship the visits to www.theducket.com were four times their normal level and it was very nice to receive complementary e-mails from players and management at the club It's always nice when people ask to use my photos away from the internet. Over the summer Gordon Dickson contacted me explaining he'd like to produce a calendar for Trust members. So in August and September I set about getting some shots for Gordon. I wanted to keep them fresh for the calendar so they didn't appear on the website. I've been offering photos to the match programme too at times because I'm conscious that with the Berwick Advertiser not using pictures for away games (certainly that was true the last time I looked) that some fans will miss out on seeing action shots away from Shielfield."

"It's also been fascinating to see how many of my photos make their way unofficially on to the personal bebo.com sites of players and fans alike. I stumbled across them when looking for info on midfielder Steven Notman. Not really being in the target age bracket for these things, I'd not quite appreciated the way people use these 'social networking' sites. For a Berwick player my site is probably one of few places they'll find photos of themselves playing and the easiest way of showing their friends is to add the pics to their personal site."

Kevin will return for the Division Two campaign, adding: "another season comes to an end. I'm off to archive all the pictures and get some space back on my PC... until next season".

Thanks to Kevin for all his unstinting efforts for both the club and the Trust, we feature his pictures in most of our newsletters and on the website. Why not log on to www.theducket.com and take a look at his work from games all over Scotland.





Supporters Trust Shop

SURF THE NET

The Trust shop has now finally made the internet. Simply go to the Trust website and follow the tabs. At the moment there is a limited range of stock due to the fact that the stock is run down towards the end of the season. We are aiming to extend the range in time for next season.

There are two ways to pay for your order; either by post or by using Paypal (there was a credit card option that hasn't proven viable).



REPLICA SHIRTS

From this month the club shop will not be selling the replica shirts of the club. This follows a request by the club who wished to sell the shirts directly rather than use ourselves. To obtain a shirt you should go onto the club website or contact the club directly (the person to speak to is Craig Forsyth).

Everything else will continue as normal.



Foreign Fields

TRUST MEMBERS Gordon Dickson, David Cook and John Bell recently made a trip to Berlin to take in a weekend of football - three games in three days. The Friday night took in the top of the table (4th Division Brandenburg) clash between Tennis Berlin and Babelsburg. A 1-0 win for the home side wasn't enough to challenge the visitor's top place and who have subsequently went on to win the league (just like us!). What was noticeable was the home supporters singing songs in English, including "It's just liking watching Brazil", a home from home.

On Saturday afternoon it was down the Union (pronounced Onion) Berlin to see them take on Fortuna Dusseldorf (with ex Glasgow Ranger Jorg Albertz in the side). The game was decided by a floated free kick that somehow found the net via a hole in the keeper's torso.

The final day (Sunday) was remarkable. A two hour drive south to Leipzig for the 4th Division (south east) match between Sachsen (Saxon) Leipzig and Dresden Nord. The match took place in the Zentral Stadium which was used



The Zentral Stadium

for last year's World Cup. It was very much the Queen's Park experience with only 1,900 people in the stadium. The home side won 3-1 although it must be said that if Dresden Nord were to enter the Charities Cup this year they wouldn't be lifting the silverware. The wonderful thing about the new stadium is that it is built inside the old stadium. To get in you have to go to the terraces of the old stadium and walk over bridges into the modern version.

To make the weekend complete the Dream Team won 1-0 at Coatbridge.

Auf Wiedersehen gadge

Vice-Chairman's Report



A VERY WARM WELCOME to all our valued members who are reading this, our latest offering on the newsletter front.

As usual, since our last edition a vast amount of hard work has been undertaken by some of our board members. As usual, we are always trying to be inclusive and transparent for our members, something I feel very strongly about, as I know it marks us down as very different to any other supporters organisation. I hope you feel our efforts in this direction are well placed, but again, as usual, this is where I think the Trust movement is streets ahead, if you don't, get in touch and let us know. We do listen to our members comments.

A very quick mention on the season just finished, phew! And what a season and indeed finish. As one who was around 28 years ago I made sure this time that I took it all in and will remember the recent goings on with much clarity.

Another initiative we are pushing on with is to come up with Championship merchandise. Several items will be available and when they are you'll be notified - we intend to publish a commemorative book and a DVD.

Also a mention for our new website and the hard work put into producing it by board member Paul Smith.

I hope you'll agree its well worth a look, and presently stands alone as the only website where you'll get up to date info on Trust as well as team matters. Still on communication, I hope you are finding the regular emails I am sending to you useful. As usual constructive criticism is most welcome, but do keep them clean!

We have also recently launched two new membership types - Corporate and Junior. If you wish to sign up your children, membership is only £5 per year. And if you own a business and would like to become a corporate member, prices start from just £10 per month. See page 13 for further details!

And finally another one of my projects, the Hall of Fame. Some of you have taken the time to send your nominations, and some quite interesting patterns are forming. However some of you have still to contribute. There's still time so let me have them as soon as you can and I will make the results known to you all.

That's enough from me, so my thanks to all concerned for making this another successful period for the Trust, and have a safe journey.....eh sorry wrong report!

Keep the faith

Colin Pike, Trust vice-chairman



Trust Help Away Travel

In an effort to increase our travelling support, Trust members Brian Parkin, Mark Swanston and Paul Smith organised coach travel to our last six away games of the season.

Numbers at the games gradually increased,

culminating in a demand to run two buses to Stenhousemuir on the final day of the season.

The Trust would like to thank Doug Stenhouse and Robert Elliot for very generous donations towards the cost of

subsidising the bus travel. We would also like to thank Glen Valley Tours of Wooler. There are already plans afoot to run buses to selected away game next season, details of which will be on our website at the beginning of July.





News Snippets



ANOTHER RACING SUCCESS!

The Trust held another successful race night at The Pilot Inn on Friday, 17th March.

It was a classic case of "everyone's a winner" (aren't they always?), with £530 being raised towards Trust funds, and a contribution of 10% of the takings going towards the national Red Nose charity event.



Plenty of punters went home with a decent wad in their pocket too, though the closing camel race caused some confusion amongst the professional punters in our midst.

Guests of honour were BRFC manager John Coughlin and his partner Kirsty, who are welcome back at any time, particularly since Kirsty had the good grace not to clean out the bankers (that's "bankers") this time around. Coff was in good form, despite occasional choruses of "Coughlin's the Special One" breaking out from the front bar.

Thanks again to mine host Spadge, not least for his ongoing hospitality and support for the Trust, plus a couple of tiptop ales in Black Moss and Crouch Vale Brewers Gold. If you like a good pint and spending an evening with a load of slawbers, then this is the place for you. Especially when the Chief has overcooked his beer tasting. Thanks also to Andy and Phil for running the race night - good work, and Trust members too; to Paul Smith for his organisational and publishing skills, and everyone else who mucked in.

TRUST QUIZ

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust held a quiz on Saturday the 17th March 2007 prior to our home game against East Fife. We would like to thank everyone who attended this event.

The quiz was fiercely contested by 10 teams off 4 people, all keen to get a share off the prize money .

The quiz master George Thompson got us all working the grey matter with his questions ranging from football to television for the next sixty minutes. Once the sheets had been marked, it was congratulations to the winning of Berwick fans, including Trust member David Spence, on a fine effort they were duly awarded there prize from Trust Chairman John Bell. A pie and pea lunch was provided for all entrants of the quiz, well done to every one who participated in this event .

Lets hope that we can continue these events prior to the occasional home game . Finally a big thank you for the Black & Gold and to our quiz master George Thompson for another successful Trust event.

VACANCY TRUST SECRETARY

Our current Secretary, Mark Swanston, is unfortunately having to step down from his position as Trust Secretary, although we're glad to say he will remain on the Society board. We are therefore looking for a current Trust member to fill the position. It will obviously be helpful if you have the required clerical skills, coupled with the ability to use Microsoft Word & Outlook. If you think you would like to become involved with the running of the Trust please get in touch and we can answer any questions you may have.

t: 01289 333103
e: mail@berwickrangers.co.uk
w: www.berwickrangers.co.uk

SUPPORTERS TRUST PRODUCE CHAMPIONSHIP GOODIES!

To help celebrate our Championship win, we acted fast to produce posters and t-shirts in time for the final league match at Stenhousemuir. They went down a treat, with all the t-shirts being snapped up before kick off. In all, we have produced 100 t-shirts, which have all been bought up. We have more ordered, which are available to buy for £9.99 on our online shop - www.berwickrangers-shop.co.uk. If you order online you will receive a free A3 colour poster.



Committee member Mark Swanston 'models' the new t-shirt

Over the course of the summer we will be producing a brand new range of leisurewear to celebrate both the 2007 title win and also the 1979 championship.

Please keep checking our new online store for details and don't forget to visit our Trust shop just inside the ground, which will be given a re-fit over the summer to include even more club merchandise.

EASY FUNDRAISING

Those of you who have logged on to our new website will be aware that we have signed up to the 'easyfundraising.org' scheme.

When ever you go online to purchase something - be it a DVD, a new TV or even a car, please use the 'easyfundraising' banner ad which is on our homepage.

Doing this will earn the Trust money - we are paid a commission on everything you buy by clicking through from our website. Most companies tend to donate up to 5% to us on all purchases.

You will find stores such as **Amazon, Play.com, Marks and Spencer, Dell, HMV, Direct Line, The Body Shop, Phones4U, Woolworths and Comet - plus many, many more.** So go on, make sure you click through our banner ad to earn the Trust money for nothing!

SAVE OUR STAGGIES VISIT BERWICK ON GROUND TOUR

On Friday 15th December 2006, committee members Colin Pike, Mark Swanston and Paul Smith met with members of Ross County supporters group 'Save our Staggies'. The group used Shielfield Park as their starting point for a tour of the 42 Scottish League grounds.

They completed the task at 3.08pm the next day, just in the nick of time to watch Ross County at Victoria Park, Dingwall. Members of the committee chipped in to donate £50 to their worthwhile cause.



Funky-Foto

P O R T R A I T S

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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