

# Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

## Be the 12th Man!



Issue # 22 • Summer 2013 • £2 (free for members)

# THE SEASON AHEAD

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In this issue



New Lowland League



Reserves Review



Player of the Year

[www.berwickrangers.org](http://www.berwickrangers.org)



## Newsletter No. 22 Summer 2013

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## Welcome...

As we embark on a new season, this is my first contribution to the Trust newsletter as chairman.

New faces were required when Colin Pike and David Cook announced their resignations as chairman and vice-chairman respectively at last December's AGM. I was pleased that treasurer Gordon Dickson agreed to support me as vice-chair.

Though stepping down from the Trust Board, Colin has remained active, editing the Reserves' match programmes. Thanks Colin, particularly as last season was difficult with its backlog of fixtures resulting in a glut of home games in April and May.

In a short space of time, we have increased the Board's membership up to twelve. Welcome Gary Smith, Ian Beresford ( who was already running our website ), Andrew Neville and Paul Smith ( no relation to Gary ). Paul is temporarily back from Australia but even from afar was involved in publishing both Reserves' programmes and the Trust newsletter. Andrew

lives in Edinburgh but should be able to make Trust Board meetings when they coincide with home games as well as making a special effort to get to some of the midweek ones.

We have also launched our Twitter feed, our website has been revamped and our logo altered slightly to include our new mantra, 'Be the 12th man'.

The Trust remains an independent body. This of course, should not preclude our working with the football club in the best interests of Berwick Rangers and its fans. After all, we are a Supporters organisation. Inevitably, there will be matters on which we disagree but already, we have been asked for our views on a number of proposals. One was the mooted increase in admission prices which are now in place for the new season. Let's not forget that for 13 years, Berwick Rangers kept standard admission prices unchanged.

I hope all our members enjoy following our favourite football club this year.

Thanks for backing the club by backing the Trust.

*Michael*

Michael Smyth,  
Chairman

### FOOT NOTE:

If you have a questions or issues, or any contributions for our newsletter, email:  
[trust@berwickrangers.org](mailto:trust@berwickrangers.org)

# SUPPORTERS TRUST EXHIBITION IN BERWICK LIBRARY

As we prepare to go to press, we are also busy organising an exhibition about Berwick Rangers Football Club in Berwick Library. It will run from Monday, August 5th to Saturday, August 10th and can be visited during normal Library opening hours. The Library is closed Thursdays.

It came about after an approach from Library staff who are always looking for new and innovative ways to attract the public into the building. The Trust Board backed the idea and we were fortunate in being able to obtain sponsorship from the Yorkshire Building Society whose agency in Berwick is Tyne and Tweed Financial Advisers in West Street. Tyne and Tweed already sell Berwick Rangers merchandise on behalf of the club with a permanent display in one of their windows.

With the Library particularly keen to encourage more young visitors and Berwick Rangers needing to increase the numbers of younger supporters, it is no coincidence that, whilst the exhibition should appeal to all ages, there has been an emphasis on youth. All week, anybody under 16 can enter a short quiz about the club ( answers available somewhere on display ) with a Berwick Rangers replica shirt as the winner's prize. On the Wednesday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m., there will be a talk about the club with a follow up question and answer session. All under 16s in attendance will receive a free Yorkshire Building Society 'goody' bag containing football related items.

The Library has helped with publicity. As it belongs to Northumberland County

Council, the latter's press department sent out a press release to various newspapers. The Library also printed off posters which have been distributed in shops, pubs and information centres in and around Berwick. Rangers' secretary Dennis McCleary made sure information about the event was included in the match programmes prior to the start of the exhibition and it was also publicised at half time during the Ramsdens Cup tie with Livingston.

We hope the exhibition and talk will help increase interest and support for our unique football club whose history and achievements it will relate.



■ The four large displays show the club's milestones, pics from the past, Trust info and details of the coming season.



Here we are, on the threshold of another season at Shielfield. I've now been a regular here for 40 years. Looking back then, my 50p season ticket got me 20+ league and cup games and the pleasure of Hall and Georgeson regularly filling the onion bag.

In those days the whole league (the Old Firm upwards) was structured in two divisions of about 18 teams, funnily called the First and Second Divisions. The season always started with the League Cup, where four teams competed in a mini league, home and away, for a place in the quarter finals. The groups always included a "big" team, Hearts and St Mirren where two that came to Shielfield. The only exception was Group 9, the group of slow death, where the bottom five teams from the Second Division the season before competed against each other to qualify for a play off against one of the other group winners. They invariably lost.

The other issue for Berwick (we were never going to win the league) was a top six finish. This achievement gave us direct entry into the Scottish Cup 3rd round for the following season. Thereby avoiding the possibility of a Highland League banana skin. That year we actually finished sixth. We led the league for a little while but the power of Kilmarnock and Airdrie, who

had been relegated the year before, led the way for the final reckoning in the spring.

And there was the problem. We were never going to seriously compete with clubs who had pitched their wits against the Old Firm etc less than a year earlier. The aim every season was to get into the top six and stay out of the bottom five.

Fast forward to 2013. Once again the 18 team bottom league was on the table and within a pen stroke of becoming a reality. Sure there were some differences, play offs replaced the top six qualification, but really it was 1973 all over again. For someone who could remember the old set up the proposal was met with bewilderment, it wasn't great then so why was it such a good idea now? And how was that going to change the ills of Scottish football? That question was never asked never mind answered. Admittedly, back in the 1970s Scotland could boast the likes of Law, Dalglish and Souness. But we also had power cuts, sugar and bread shortages and Gary Glitter.

The truth of the matter is that league reconstruction on its own is not going to lead to the promised land and the emergence of the talents available to the Scottish managers of the 1970s. This is only a part of the solution but I wonder that when we get back to playing football, will there be as much drive to implement a proper thought out strategy for the whole game? Or is it just about money? To me, and this is only my opinion, this has been driven by those clubs with ambitions towards the SPL but without the resources to sustain that ambition. Of course there's nothing wrong with ambition but this whole process has been characterised by increased desperation to find a "solution" at any costs with due diligence and meaningful consultation taking the back seat in a knackered two seated sports car.



■ *SPFL chief executive Neil Doncaster says he hopes rebranding can lift what was known as the First Division in Scotland*

Consequently, throughout the second half of the season we all turned up wondering the game we were about to witness held any value. The chaos did nothing for the credibility of the game. Surely any sponsor would think twice about the wisdom of being associated with something that appeared so fractious.

For clubs like ours it has always been a hand to mouth existence and it is to our board's credit that this year, with the help of the Rangers' matches, we are likely to turn in a third profitable year in a row with a bank balance well into the black. If anyone questions our right to be part of the football family then we would be entitled to point to our financial situation and compare it to those who question our relevance. The idea of the 18 team league smacked of disrespect while to "too many clubs" echoed the same mindset. Can anyone seriously suggest that the Berwicks, Shires and Montroses are responsible for the state of Scottish football? Anyway, when was the last time the people of these so called backwaters had to accept 5p in

the pound just because their local football club couldn't run their businesses correctly?

The last six months reminded me of that film about the air crash in the Andes. Everyone was in the same situation and needed to work together to work towards overcoming a dire crisis. However division and self-interest became prevalent. Except in our case the climate will only get colder and the rescue party (the EPL or the Champions League) only has space for two. What next? Eat the weak? Ridiculous? Ask the supporters of Clydebank and Meadowbank about that one!

No doubt, by the time you read this there will be something in place, but I doubt it's the Holy Grail that the Monty Pythons have been searching for. I was pleased to see that Stirling University had been asked to look at the merits of summer football. Yes it's a big step and an even bigger debate. One for another (sunnier) day.



# New Lowland League

At the end of a saga which threatened to turn Scottish football into a laughing stock, there was no substantial change to the Scottish Leagues set-up save there will now be one league, the Scottish Professional Football League, but with the same four division 12:10:10:10 structure as before.

However, there was a shake up of the senior non-league game with the formation of a new 12 club Scottish Lowland League. Such a league has been on the cards for a number of years but it finally came into being after both the East and South of Scotland Leagues had held their AGMs.

In the end, nine EoS L clubs were accepted into the new competition which is being described as part of a new 'pyramid' structure. The idea is that in the future, it will expand to 16 teams with the winners playing off with the Highland League champs to challenge for a place in the lowest tier of the SPFL.

Clearly, a major condition for entry into the new league was the facilities offered by the candidate clubs rather than their most recent playing records. For example, two of the three Borders sides included have actually moved up from the East League's lower division. Gala Fairydean ( who have now added 'Rovers' to their title after merging with Border Amateur club Gala Rovers ) were trounced 8-0 in their final EoS L game at Coldstream. Selkirk managed a league double over Berwick Rangers Reserves but still finished well down the table. Vale of Leithen got approval from the league to postpone one Premier Division match last season because they could not field a team as a result of injuries, suspension, etc. saying that such situations are always possible at that level of football. Will such be acceptable in the new Lowland League?



Two SoSL clubs, Dalbeattie Star and Threave Rovers are in the new league along with East Kilbride, an ambitious amateur club which apparently operates 30 teams and which had been accepted into the South League but resigned without kicking a ball after a place in the newly formed competition beckoned. It is noticeable that at this point, no Junior clubs have crossed over to play in this 'pyramid' league.

The East of Scotland League had already accepted an application from Hibernian to join, the precise age profile of this team still uncertain. At an Emergency General Meeting in late June, it was decided to maintain two divisions within the EoS L. The more controversial issue was that reserve sides from Spartans and Stirling University will occupy the places in the Premier Division vacated by their respective first teams. It means that eight out ten team top division outfits will be based in Edinburgh.

Berwick Reserves remain in the First Division. One possible benefit of having fewer games to play in a ten team division as opposed to last season's fourteen, is it should mean less pressure on Shielfield. There were one or two contentious postponements last year. All the same, there will be additional fixtures in other EoS L competitions.

# Football Club Update

**Berwick Rangers Vice Chairman and Supporters Trust representative on the football club board, JOHN BELL, tells us about recent key issues...**

You'll now be aware that Berwick Rangers are members of the Scottish Professional Football League. Berwick were one of six clubs to vote against the merger of the Scottish Football League and the Scottish Premier League, the other five all being members of the old Second and Third Divisions.

Our major concerns included the lack of a meaningful involvement in the governance of the new body. There is one place on the Board for representatives from the former Second and Third Divisions, the old First Division have two and the Premier have three. With the removal of the security of the former settlement payment from the SPL to the SFL, the lower divisions' share will now come entirely from a pot of uncertain size. Most of the projected income of the SPFL is connected to TV deals, and at the time of writing ( mid July ), there is no League nor League Cup sponsor. Time will tell if the optimism of the First Division in particular will be justified, but their share of the pot has increased considerably.

The major driving force for change came from the First Division clubs, many of whom wanted to get this deal signed at the earliest opportunity. Perhaps there are others close to the position that Dunfermline find themselves in, and many would argue that full-time football is completely unsustainable with crowds of 1500 or so, yet the new model helps to prop it up.

We will also have to become accustomed to the new nomenclature with the 'rebranding' of the constituent divisions as the Scottish Premiership, Scottish Championship and Scottish Leagues 1 and 2.

On the team front, all signings have been on the website. There was quite a bit of speculation on internet forums about players that we've never even spoken to, and yet the club is criticised for being mean with information. The official club website of any club will not normally indulge in speculation about signings and we're no different. There's also the risk that competitors are alerted to a player's availability, so we often need to keep things close to our chest until the paperwork is signed.

The coaching session for youngsters held on Old Shielfield on Saturday, July 20th, prior to the friendly with Forfar, went well with 35 participants in all across the different age groups. Manager Ian Little, his assistant Robbie Horn and new captain Lee Currie were amongst those passing on their knowledge. Season tickets for all young people 16 and under are now only £10, with individual League games only £2, so we very much hope that cost is not a barrier to young fans coming along to Shielfield.





**We made it to the play-offs - just. In the end, goal difference determined that Berwick Rangers, not Elgin City, would meet the Second Division's second bottom team, East Fife, in the inter-divisional semi-final of the Second Division play offs.**

Over 700 fans were recorded as being present for the first leg at Shielfield, a classic 'game of two halves'. The Fifers dominated the opening 45 minutes and went in one up at the break. On their return to the field, Berwick displayed renewed confidence and a goal from sub Darren Lavery put them level. Near the end, a thumper from another sub, Dylan Easton, rattled the bar. Football is full of 'if only's' but if that one had gone in.....

As it was, the return leg at Methil also finished all square after 90 minutes. Lavery was again Berwick's scorer, this time from the spot. Another Berwick player, Kevin McDonald, also netted but his was a bizarre own goal which forced the tie to extra time. Very late in the extended period, an East Fife counter attack produced the killer goal.



East Fife went on to retain their Second Division place, surprising many by winning at Peterhead after the 'Blue Toon' had drawn away in the first leg. Apparently, the play offs cost the Methil club a bit of money. Their players were signed only to the end of the regular season and new, short term contracts had to be arranged to cover the play offs meaning the players were paid for another month. Prudently, the Berwick board had their men tied to deals which saw them contracted to the end of the regular season or the end of involvement in the play offs, whichever was applicable.

Had we got through to play Peterhead, the Aberdeenshire side would have been a tough nut to crack for in four league meetings with them, Berwick failed to register a win.

Though disappointing to go out to E. Fife, reaching the play-offs could be considered something of an achievement in itself. At one point, there was a real danger that Berwick would slip to bottom place and for long spells during the campaign, the gap between 4th place and the 'Borderers' looked as if it might be just too big to close.

One Trust member observed that Ian Little's team seemed to perform better when they were under no real pressure, when expectations weren't high. Still floating below the play off box, they embarked on a six match unbeaten run immediately following February's home defeat by Glasgow Rangers. Three of the wins came in rearranged Tuesday night matches culminating in a highly satisfying 2-0 triumph over another team which made the play offs, Queen's Park. In late April, when the pressure was really on, the team stumbled to defeat at home to Annan Athletic. The final league match was at Ibrox but by this stage, thanks to results other than their own, Berwick knew that 4th spot would be theirs if they avoided a heavy defeat against the Third Division champions.

Club chairman Brian Porteous was reported as saying that promotion was important as it would ensure another couple of lucrative home games with Rangers. True, but promotion surely should not simply be about the chance of games against one particular club. Brian may also have said that but we know that journalists can be very selective about which comments to print!

So how do Berwick Rangers look as regards promotion at the end of 2013-14? Despite some inconsistent results and performances, 'Yano's' team was acknowledged for the way it tried to play good football. After the 3-3 draw at home to Clyde in February, the referee commented to another Trust member that of all the teams he had refereed so far in the season, Berwick were easily the most attractive footballing side, irrespective of division. To the fans' frustration, sometimes, this laudable style of play was not finished off with the even more important goals!

Many of the players who finished last season have been retained. Not only a reflection of the manager's general satisfaction with the way his charges played but, unlike in the previous two years, a solid base from which to start, rather than scurrying around trying to sign men as high noon approaches with the likely result that some in the ranks are really not good enough. Plus Ross Gray has already been signed for his fourth spell at Shielfield after leaving Livingston.

Andy McLean is going abroad, Chris Townsley has joined 'Shire and it was no surprise that Dene Drouge and Marc Lancaster were released. Drouge, so impressive in August's home game with Rangers, never played again after limping off at Montrose three weeks later. After months on the sidelines with a back complaint, Lancaster did make an end of season comeback in the Reserves but had departed by the time of the King Cup Final.



Both Dougie Brydon and Fraser McLaren were offered terms again but delayed their decisions. The former opted to stay, McLaren decided against. Most fans will be pleased to keep Brydon and hope he has fully recovered from a groin injury. As for McLaren and McDonald, who was released, a personal view is that they were both frustrating players. McLaren's tendency was to overrun the ball or try to take on one man too many. McDonald's reluctance to tackle was a luxury that could not be afforded in midfield.

The mercurial Easton has been lost to St. Johnstone and a good keeper is a must with the return of Marc McCallum to Dundee United. Lavery could still do with some help up front but a partnership with Scott Dalziel--players with contrasting styles--could yet prove productive.

Peterhead, Queen's Park and Stirling Albion ( last season's scourge of Glasgow Rangers ) are likely to be fancied to do well this time round. Let's hope that Berwick start at long odds. That would lessen expectations. They might do better!



**By the narrowest of margins, Darren Lavery was voted as Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust Player of the Year for 2012-13.**

Darren signed for Berwick in August, 2011 after playing several games as a trialist in the Reserves.

He joined Rangers at the same time as Jamie Burstow, the pair costing the Shielfield club a combined sum of £500 from Leith Athletic. In his first season with Berwick, Darren finished as top scorer for the second team despite being loaned to Tranent Juniors for the final part of the season. In the 2012-13 campaign, he was the first team's leading scorer with twenty goals.

To win the Trust award, Darren beat off strong competition from Lee Currie, Devon Jacobs and Dougie Brydon were also in the running.



This year's award was supported by 'Shoe Care' of Hide Hill in Berwick and the trophy was presented to Darren by Trust Board member David Spence at the Berwick Rangers' awards ceremony in the club rooms at Shielfield after the match against Annan Athletic on Saturday, April 21st.

Thanks to all Trust members who took part in the voting whether in person, by e-mail or by telephone.

■ David Spence presents the award to Darren

## Ponteland United 4 Red House Farm 6

Northern Alliance League  
Att: 21 (plus one Jack Russell)

Determined not to let the gut-wrenching disappointment of Bayview be the final act of my season, I scoured the Journal for an end-of-season game - but matches were fast running out now. But, bless 'em, Ponteland United, in the Northern Alliance, came to my rescue! Not only was it a new ground for me but, to add extra spice, there was still something riding on it. The opponents, the magnificently named Red House Farm, needed a result to assure promotion to the Northern League - and thus set up a league game with the equally splendidly named West Allotment Celtic!

But first, a taxing journey awaited me. A train from Berwick to Newcastle, then a Metro to the end-of-the-line Newcastle Airport and finally, a 2-mile hike into Ponteland. The tell-tale 6.30 kick off told me that there would be no navigational floodlights to aim for - but I soon stumbled across the ground. Ground? Well...PARK, maybe! It was simply a pitch, enclosed only by part-fencing, part-conifers ! I DID manage to find a gap in the fencing that I assumed was the 'turnstile' and even spotted a makeshift poster pinned to the fence - including a £1 entry sign. The problem was there wasn't a single soul to be found - either inside or OUTSIDE the ground! I waited patiently and finally someone took up position at the gate. 'Oh, you want to PAY...?!' he said, with incredulity. I handed over my quid, and couldn't help but think that this was going to be the total gate receipts for the evening. Possibly even the SEASON...!

Slowly but surely, others found their way in - but, at kick off, the players still outnumbered the spectators - and the receipts appeared to remain at £1, as the gateman seemed happy



to share a conversation and back-slap with the others as they strolled through the gate.

From 4-1 down, Red House turned it round to win 6-4 in a wonderful match. The scoring even included a penalty that went straight in, which further helped my Bayview nightmare to fade. Though I know that, till my dying day, every penalty I see will ALWAYS make me think of Kevin McDonald....

Anxious to keep my records accurate, and obviously with no programme to help me, I had to make numerous visits to behind the dug-outs to get info of the scorers from the respective management teams. Thankfully, the Ponteland manager eventually realised my plight and improved on his answer after their opening goal, 'It was the number 10 mate....!' Suddenly Mark Lawrenson's inane Saturday night ramblings seemed almost enlightening in comparison.

As the final whistle went in semi-darkness (fair play to the referee for turning the players almost straight round at half time), the players celebrated their promotion, and I stumbled off towards Newcastle Airport into the fading light, happy that my harsh, solitary funding of the game turned out to be 10p a goal....



**Berwick Rangers Reserves' season ended three weeks after the first team's in front of almost 300 spectators at Craigroyston F.C.'s St. Mark's Park ground in Edinburgh.**

The occasion was the King Cup Final against Spartans. The Reserves beat two East of Scotland Premier sides on their way to the Final but, hindered by the 38th minute dismissal of Grant McNicoll, went down 3-1 this time. Some consolation came in the form of a £700 cheque, the Reserves' share of gate receipts.

The team finished fourth in an expanded EoSL First Division, a big improvement on the previous season's tenth spot. Things were better in other ways too, discipline and style of play amongst them. As an official of league newcomers Burntisland Shipyard explained,

he knew that when his team came to Shielfield it would be playing a side which would play football rather than try to kick his men off the park.

Most importantly of all, there were signs that the Reserves would produce players who would step up into the first team. It is true that by the end of the season, none of them had fully established themselves as first teamers but Dean Carse, Josh Morris, Kenny O'Brien, Jonny Fairbairn and more recently, Ross Brady, were awarded contracts which recognised their potential and prospects of making it to the senior squad.

Carse made several starts for the first XI whilst Morris and O'Brien played off the bench on a number of occasions. Others such as keeper Asher Tufail and Sam Todd earned appearance



■ Reserves in King Cup Final



■ Reserves in King Cup Final

money by virtue of being listed as subs without actually getting on to the field.

It could also be argued that Dylan Easton was a product of the Reserves for it was coach Mark Lamb who gambled by offering him a chance at Berwick after Easton left Livingston.

Mainly due to continuing knee problems, the bringing back of McNicoll to guide the team on the pitch, was not really a success. The vastly experienced defender was a spectator when the Reserves' 'finger in the dyke' display saw them through their King Cup semi final against Preston Athletic at Prestonpans. The other outstanding result was the 5-1 slaughter of Leith Athletic, very much fancied for promotion at the time, at Spartans' Ainslie Park complex.

Morris finished as top scorer with 28 goals. Had there been a Player of the Year award, Brady would have been a leading contender for his outstanding work rate alone.

Ewan Saunderson, Steven Finlayson, Jordyn Gill and goalies Tufail and Kieran Beveridge have all been retained and the door is still open for big Steven Bennett who underwent knee surgery in February. Greig Smith and Callum Wyllie have both departed for Fife Junior clubs, the latter, ex Rangers and Hearts, never quite living up to expectations.

The only outfield player to graduate from the Under 19s was centre back Allan Hay and after finishing bottom of both the SFL Under 19 Youth Division and their League Cup section, Berwick Rangers have decided to scrap the Under 19 side and terminate their partnership with Salvesen Community F.C.

***You can keep up to date with the latest on the Reserves on our website, where we will be adding news and reports when possible: [www.berwickrangers.org](http://www.berwickrangers.org)***





**Berwick Rangers in Scotland, Derry City in the Republic of Ireland, The New Saints (Oswestry) in Wales, Monaco in France and Vaduz (Liechtenstein) in Switzerland.**

This select band of clubs has been joined by another, Guernsey F.C. in England. Well not actually the Football League but for the past two seasons, the Combined Counties League, catering for clubs in Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey, London and Middlesex at 'Step 5' of English soccer.

Guernsey is neither a part of England nor of the United Kingdom. Guernsey F.C. was formed in 2011 to provide the opportunity for the island's leading players to compete at a higher level than that available in the Channel Islands.

The islanders have certainly made a big impression in a short space of time. Promoted to the top division of the Combined Counties at the end of their first season, they finished



runners up last year and so have now moved up to 'Step 4' with a place in the Isthmian League Division 1 South ( Ryman South ).

Last season, Guernsey also reached the semi-final of the F.A. Vase where they went out to eventual winners Spennymoor Town. The first leg on the island, won 3-1 by Spennymoor, attracted a crowd of 4,290.

Inside information is that Guernsey F.C. paid the cost of return flights to and from the island for parties of twenty players and officials from visiting Combined Counties League teams.

## Michael Smyth reports on a recent football experience in the Middle East

Jericho, 'the oldest city in the world', with 10,000 years of continuous human habitation, is in the West Bank. In football terms, that is most definitely Palestine who are members of the Asia Confederation. (For geo-political reasons, Israel are extra-territorial members of UEFA.)

Jericho was the first place to come under the control of the Palestinian Authority following the 1993 Oslo Accords. Sitting in its large Spanish Gardens Park in late afternoon in June with the temperature still in the mid 30s Centigrade, the sound of cheering was the clarion call to walk a few hundred yards and investigate what was going on next door. Various called the Jericho Municipality Stadium or the Jericho International Stadium, this 7,000 capacity venue was staging what appeared to be a youth tournament.

Admission was free. Teams were smartly kitted out. The trend for non-uniform footwear had reached here too, with boys in boots of assorted colours. There were proper match officials and a fourth one with an electronic number board to signal substitutions.

The grass looked real with not a hint of sand despite this being a desert city ( though with a population of around 40,000 including a large refugee camp--with houses, not tents-- 'town' would be a more accurate description. )

The stadium cost \$2.5 million ( U.S. ) to build , the project funded with money from Japan. It boasts one main stand. Imagine a capital 'E' turned on its side but with its central 'arm' missing and you get some idea of its shape. It provided plenty of shade for the 200 strong, mainly youthful audience. In the rest of the ground, it was standing space only.

The second half of the match witnessed was largely one way traffic with the dominant team bigger, faster and more skilful than the opposition whose hapless goalkeeper was often left horribly exposed. It got to the point where additional goals hardly raised any more cheers.

As a nearby sports shop proprietor confirmed, football is easily the most popular sport in Palestine. He was pleased to be able to add that girls are now also playing. The question therefore arises, are they the ones playing in winter?!



■ *Panorama of Jericho*



## TRUST MEMBERS SCALE NEW HEIGHTS!

The weekend of June 8th/9th, 2013 is unlikely to be forgotten by Berwickers Mark Swanston, Brian Parkin, Mike Bell, Duncan Black ( all Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust members ) and Chris Eke. That was when they took part in the Three Peaks Challenge to raise money for the children's charity, Action Medical Research. Sponsors included Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust via a generous gesture by secretary Isla Barber. Individual Trust members also pledged support. But first, the team had to complete the Challenge.



They did so in some style, managing the ascent of Ben Nevis in the Highlands, Scafell Pike in the Lake District and Snowdon in North Wales in 22 hours and 47 minutes, well inside the target time of 24 hours. In fact they did so well, they finished third out of 48 competing teams and were rewarded with medals. The three peaks are the highest mountains in each of the constituent countries of mainland Britain and obviously, there was also a lot of travelling between climbs.

On behalf of the group, Mark thanked the Trust for its support which, in addition to the pledge of money, included publicity on the Trust website.

## TOO MANY FRIENDLIES?

Berwick Rangers arranged no fewer than seven pre-season first team friendlies starting on July 7th at Ashington. Too many? Not according to manager Ian Little who was reported in the local press as saying that playing so many games helps get the players match fit and provides opportunities to give everyone in the squad a run out.

Some might suggest that an abundance of summer fixtures could leave the players knackered even before the serious action gets underway.

On a similar theme, are the pre-match warm ups too long? Would some of the energy exerted in these be better saved for the actual match? Remember, we are talking about part-time players.

## ...AND ANOTHER THING

Devon Jacobs was injured in the first friendly at Ashington. Neil Janczyk lasted twenty minutes of the first at home to Oxford United. Dean Carse was down and out at Rosewell against Whitehill Welfare. Manager Ian Little reported more casualties after the 2-1 win at Musselburgh on July 23rd. The risk of injuries such as these even before a ball is kicked in anger adds weight to the argument against a spate of pre-season games. On the other hand, even if partly dictated by circumstances, credit to 'Yano' for giving opportunities to regulars in last season's Reserves team in these early matches. Jonny Fairbairn, Ewan Saunderson and Ross Brady all made their first team debuts in July.

## ELVIS WILL RETURN

Last year, Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust organised an 'Elvis Presley Tribute Night'

with Danny Allan as 'The King'. It was a great success and Danny has been invited back. This year's Tribute will take place in the Black and Gold Club at Shielfield on Saturday, October 19th with doors opening at 7:30 p.m. Tickets ( available later ) will again be priced at £10 per head which includes supper. There's no need to worry about getting back from an away game in time. Berwick Rangers are at home to Clyde that afternoon.

## HAVE BUS, WILL TRAVEL

Berwick Rangers Reserves have a new 15 seater minibus. Coach Mark Lamb purchased it in Durham. The Reserves also began last season with a minibus but its use soon petered out with many players preferring to use their own transport to and from matches. This increased the overall travelling expenses paid out so this season, it will be a case of use the bus or pay your own way by car. Mark also believes that if all the team travel together, it enhances team spirit or, as modern parlance would have it, leads to better 'bonding'.



The club is looking for sponsorship for the minibus with the sponsoring business or organisation's logo appearing on it plus publicity in the Reserves' section of the football club's official website. For the front or rear of the minibus, including all artwork and bus wrapping, the cost would be £495. For the side, £325.

Alternatively, a garage or mechanic is sought who will agree to service and maintain the vehicle in exchange for free advertising on it.

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust is already committed to a four figure donation so that the Reserves can have their own physiotherapist in attendance at all competitive matches, home and away, and has also offered to back a couple of players under a proposed individual player sponsorship scheme.

Any parties interested in sponsoring the bus or players can contact Mark at marklamb905@msn.com.

## QUIZ TIME!

This short quiz formed part of Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust exhibition in Berwick Library from August 5th-10th with support from the Yorkshire Building Society. It was open to under 16s only. Can you answer all five questions correctly?

1. When were Berwick Rangers founded?
2. In what year did Berwick Rangers join the Scottish Football Association?
3. Who scored Berwick's goal when they beat Glasgow Rangers 1-0 in 1967?
4. Which player has played a record number of games for Berwick Rangers?
5. Who were Berwick's opponents for their first game on live TV in 2002?

Answers  
1. 1884 2. 1905 3. Sammy Reid  
4. Eric Tait 5. Glasgow Rangers



## Q&A with our sponsors

**1. When and where did the company originate?**  
Founded Dornbirn, Austria in June 2009.

**2. Where are the company's headquarters now?**  
Zoo Sport head office is now in Leeds, West Yorkshire and we also have an office in Brisbane, Australia.

**3. Why the name 'ZOO'?**  
It is actually the letter Z and the symbol of "infinity", which goes to reflect our commitment to help without limits or bounds. Our "name" is not the word Zoo but an actual logo design.

**4. You are well known for sportswear. Is your range of products wider than that?**  
We offer on field playing kit as well as a growing range of leisurewear featuring polos, tees, hoodies, dress shirts. Our Australian office even offer "board shorts" and "rash vests", so we cater for a wide variety of sports!!!

**5. How, why and when did ZOO become involved with Berwick Rangers?**  
We were initially involved with a couple of Austrian first division Soccer clubs and wanted to establish a foothold within the UK Football market. Conversations led to our understanding that Berwick Rangers were potentially looking for a new kit supplier and as we have experience of working within Northumberland and Scotland it was an obvious attraction for us to work with a relatively high profile Football club and allow us to manage the design, manufacture and delivery by being "local". We value "service" and therefore being on hand would allow more interaction between ourselves and the club. We also know Eric Tait well and as an ex-player linked to both parties it was another positive reason. Apart from that, Berwick Rangers have a long and proud tradition within Scottish Football and are a well known "name"!!!

**6. Berwick Rangers are a relatively small club. From the perspective of ZOO, are there any particular advantages of being associated with a club of Berwick's size?** Yes, the size of Berwick allows us to work closely with the playing side and kit manager on team requirements, to get excellent feedback for our future development and, as a relatively new company, to grow without compromising our service commitment to the club.

**7. Presumably, you are involved with other British football clubs. Can you name some of them?** Surprisingly enough we are only involved with 3 Football clubs, Berwick in Scotland, Farnborough FC and Harrogate Town, 2 non-league English clubs. We are keen to develop stronger links within Scottish Football, but are waiting for the right partner. Similarly in England.

**8. Any abroad?** Our partnerships with the two original Austrian clubs have now come to an end. However, we are talking to a senior club with European experience, so watch this space!!

**9. Are you involved with major clubs in other sports, e.g. rugby league, rugby union, basketball?** We are heavily involved within Rugby Union, including Berwick RFC!! We supply clubs ranging from Bedford Blues in England and Glasgow Hawks, Hawick in Premier 1 in Scotland through to several Hockey and Cricket clubs, so whilst not a heavy portfolio of clubs we do feel we have a good breadth of exposure.

**10. How do you see the future of your relationship with Berwick Rangers?**  
The time we have had with Berwick Rangers has been both enjoyable and helped develop brand awareness. We are very keen to work long into the future with the club. We have a strong working relationship and value the partnership and in the future, we would like to continue to offer a great product and a solid level of service.

# ZOO sport

## WE LOVE TO WIN

**We are proud and honoured to be associated with such a great club as Berwick Rangers, a true heritage football club with a fine tradition.**

**The club are a pleasure to work with and we hope we can continue providing high quality team wear for many years to come.**



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