

BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS TRUST



Leaping into action



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New Decade | New Goals | New Berwick Rangers

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN...



Welcome to the Summer edition of The Trust magazine; and yet another bumper issue!! As I type, it really does feel like Summer as I'm sitting in my shed, sweltering in about 30 degrees. Living in the sunniest place in Scotland you'd think I'd be used to it.

It's fair to say that our pre-season form hasn't inspired too many of our supporters judging from social media, however as the head coach of the team I coach GK's for said; pre-season is about the work rate, building relationships and becoming familiar with our

shape, formations, and tactics in and out of possession. I agree with all that, so with the signings we've made, I'm still extremely optimistic indeed for the season ahead.

In terms of what we've been up to over recent months, we've been recruiting to The Trust Board, and we have a fantastic breadth of knowledge, experience, and wider love for the black & gold. A very warm welcome to Linda Buchanan, Glyn Farrer and Ruairaidh Ferguson joining recent recruits Graeme Tait and Jenna Shields alongside Jeffrey Roy, Joe Crawford, David Letham, Gordon Dickson, Ron Kirk, and me.

As a group, we've been thinking hard about what we can do to help the club and football in our community.

I'm excited to say that we've agreed with the Club Board to offer a budget to support a Berwick Rangers under 20's team for an initial two season term, commencing in season 2023/24; a fledgling initiative as there are many things to get in place, no least a crowd-funding initiative to grow the budget. However, I felt it important to share this, even at this early stage, to show that we and The Club still hold youth development dear.

Another initiative is our recent support to the Berwick Rangers Wildcats through providing all the young people at the club with a water bottle; good hydration being an essential element for any successful athlete. My thanks to Andy Thorpe, Tracy Donnachie, and all at

The Wildcats for being so easy to work with and Fantasy Prints for providing such a great and timely service.

My sincere thanks again to all our contributors for providing such a brilliant range of diverse and enjoyable articles.

Andrew Allan
Chairman, Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

FOOT NOTE: For queries or comments about this magazine or to offer contributions for future editions, please e-mail trust@berwickrangers.org

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LONE RANGERS REVIEW

by **JEFFREY ROY**

Jeffrey Roy, Trust committee member gives his synopsis on the Berwick Rangers book *The Lone Rangers: An English club's century in Scottish football*. Jeffery has decided to divide his review in to three segments. The goal is to not provide much in the way of specific details to encourage readers to purchase the book.

Front and Back Covers/Inside Sleeves-A colourful picture of twelve Berwick Rangers players grace the cover of the book 'The Lone Rangers: An English club's century in Scottish football.' The author is Tom Maxwell, a Journalist from Berwick-upon-Tweed. The book was published by Northumbria press in 2011. The inside sleeve reveals the picture on the front cover is of the 1967 side which defeated a (perhaps?) more well-known club in the First Round of the Scottish F.A. Cup. The text on the back cover is concise yet encourages readers to start reading the book to learn more. Items of note include the role an internationally known player had for England during a World Cup, how a much-accomplished Manager was influenced by his involvement with Berwick Rangers, and what happened when another well-known player appeared in a match for the club. Rounding out this enticing summary are references to Berwick-upon-Tweed's relations with a particular country, and blockages to Berwick Rangers being able to participate in a certain competition.

Foreword-A former Manager of Berwick Rangers pens a brief but informative and heartfelt Foreword. In case readers missed it in the Inner Sleeve text, they are reminded of the name of the Manager of the side that achieved a momentous victory in 1967. Will

there be an explanation later in the book as to why this Manager was considered as very 'scary' person? When the Foreword author was a manager himself, clubs were awarded fewer points for a victory. It would have been interesting if he would have added a paragraph or two to identify and reflect upon the "mistakes" he admits to making while being the Manager of Berwick Rangers.

Prologue, titled 'Borderline Insanity'-The tone of the author's writing changes when recalling a particular incident which led to a very important fact and reminder about Berwick-upon-Tweed. The first paragraph invokes memories of what some gatherings were like before pandemic restrictions outlawed them. Readers may have wanted to read more details about what the author describes as a particular human behaviour to which he refers. Some readers likely have a much stronger stomach than myself (admittedly I rarely drink alcohol) to consider taking in the drink the author describes. A description of how an event that reminded people that Berwick is not in Scotland may leave readers wondering why Berwick Rangers did not participate in a football league that was based in England. Living so far from the United Kingdom, without my involvement with the Trust and Club I could not have answered the question about where certain towns are situated. Some readers may be offended at an expletive used in the final paragraph; however, I encourage readers to remember that the author is simply retelling what was actually said on that occasion.

Chapter 1, titled 'Black And Gold Barmy'-This chapter opens with a delightful description of the author's experiences as a child at a Berwick Rangers home fixture, including the

ground, squads, and amenities. Basic details about the town include reference to another Berwick club playing in a Scottish league. More interesting facts about the town include the day of my birth, 13, and when the town was a part of Scotland. In vivid detail the author describes how he feels Berwick has been treated by England and Scotland, and a stark assessment of how local residents have been affected. A response during a work-related training session may reveal attitudes of those who live farther from the town. I learned of the five Scotland-based clubs that play home matches to the south of the Berwick Rangers' ground. I was surprised but delighted to see reference to a fellow member of our Trust, assuming it is the same person. I also learned about a player from Berwick who

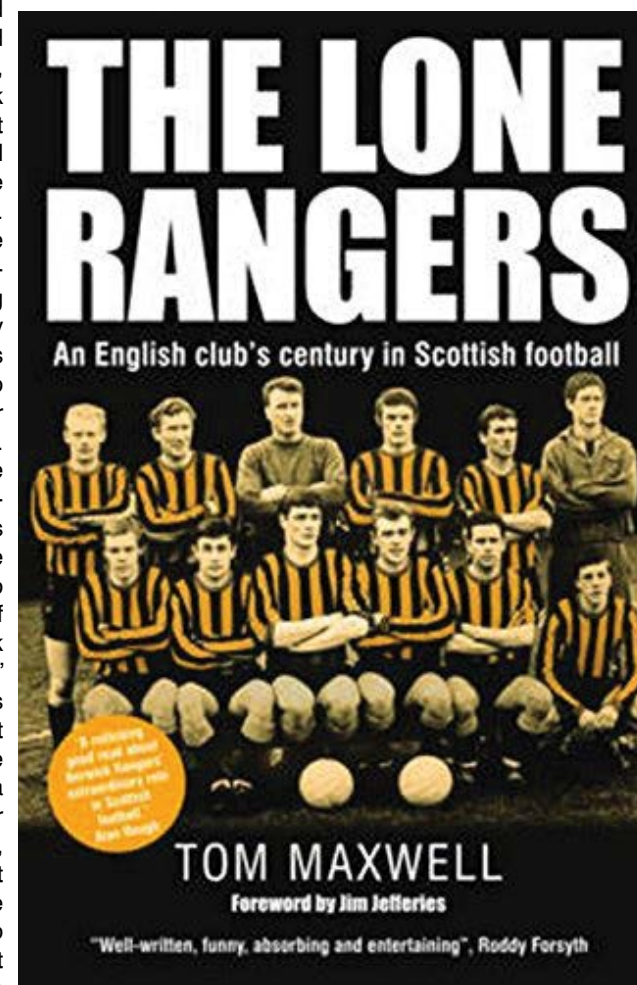
enjoyed a career with three (more famous?) clubs and appeared several times for England. The intensity of emotions of some supporters is evident in the 13 (another mention of this number!) listings of expletives, not spelled out of course! The chapter closes with the

author's thoughts about possible futures for the town of Berwick.

Chapter 2, titled 'Who Are Ya?'-This chapter opens by recounting efforts to encourage residents of Berwick to make a significant decision about how they would like to exist.

This expands into an unfortunate reminder of how some in leadership positions do not make a more in-depth effort to find out what the opinions of those living in a town really think about a particular issue. The Trust member mentioned in the previous chapter appears again to offer a stark assessment of Berwick's status whether as part of England or Scotland. I felt inspired to learn some of the scope of historical events centred in Berwick. A rather rapid

transition takes readers out of the historical account and into an account of how Berwick was portrayed in a certain form of media. I wonder how readers will react to the approximately first eighth of the book being devoted to general history rather than dealing



with the club right from its inception and possibly before. For me, a significant question arising from the first part of the book is the following: If Berwick were to be absorbed into Scotland, would residents of the next closest town be encouraged to follow? The chapter concludes with a thought-provoking statement about clubs that are in a location situation similar to Berwick.

Chapter 3, titled 'Eighteen Eighty-Four'- The chapter opens with historical details about the Berwick Rangers. There is reference to a Cup competition which no longer exists. The author mentions the three Scottish clubs that have competed in the English F.A. Cup. The reference to a span of years shows how significant the author feels this period was for the club. He identifies benefits of the club playing in Scotland and offers opinions on the depth of the commitment some people have to supporting the club on a regular basis. Berwick is one of a number of clubs that have never competed in the Scottish Premier league. The author describes how the actual founding date of the club is different than what had been believed. Readers learn the identity of the English club that had been known as Berwick Rangers before the name was changed. Challenges the club faced while participating in an English league are detailed. As the chapter closes readers are left wondering what challenges the club faced within the Scottish league system.

Chapter 4, titled 'Sex And Danger'-The entirety of this chapter shifts away from historical details and focuses on the author's experiences while at school in Berwick. There is a third mention of that same member of the Berwick Rangers Trust, again assuming it is the same person. This time, it describes an innovation the member made or at least encouraged to be made to a particular item of club merchandise. It would be interesting to purchase one of these items, if it still being produced, as I doubt many similar items at other clubs wherever in the world they are located have the same characteristic. To

me, there is a disturbing identification of an attitude toward Berwick Rangers held by a person of some recognition. I must add a personal opinion that, for me, very important is the term the author uses to classify that person's attitude. I believe it is a more accurate description of those types of attitudes than the one that has been used for years by so many people. The chapter concludes with a tantalizing sentence about an ongoing time of difficulties faced by the club.

Next Issue: Chapters 5 to 11.

A lively account of Berwick Rangers' many trials and tribulations... Maxwell brings this unique place to life

- Harry Pearson, When Saturday Comes

Well-written, funny, absorbing and entertaining - all the joy and pain of British football's true borderline madness!

- Roddy Forsyth, BBC commentator and The Telegraph

I never knew I could know so little about my local football team. The Lone Rangers has fixed that, however, in the most entertaining and humorous way

- Pat Nevin, Ex-Chelsea and Everton footballer and 5 Live commentator

The Lone Rangers should be cherished as an affectionate and entertaining account of the club's life through thick and thin

- The Scotsman

IS IT THE FINAL WHISTLE FOR THE PRINTED MATCH PROGRAMME

by Neil Withington

Football programmes don't usually get much media attention, but they made headlines last season with the news that a Scottish Premiership club, along with five English Championship clubs, had ceased to produce a printed version of their matchday programme and, in some cases, had abandoned the idea of a programme altogether.

Swansea City and Bristol City issued digital only programmes while Reading, Blackburn Rovers and Derby County didn't publish at all, although the latter two moved to a monthly or quarterly magazine. Swansea did acknowledge that some of their supporters would still prefer a physical copy and therefore sold a printed set of all their 2021/22 home programmes at the end of the season.

Strangely, Hibs carried out a review of their communications and content output part way through last season, prior to announcing in October 2021 that production of their matchday publication would cease immediately. You may well wonder that if a club with an average 'gate' of almost 15,000 for its Scottish Premiership matches feels that it is not viable to produce a programme, then



what chance have the smaller clubs lower down the pyramid got?

This all makes grim reading if you are a supporter who feels that buying a printed programme is as much a part of the matchday



The editor of Liverpool's programme, David Cottrell, told BBC Sport website that some programme content, such as historical features and lengthy interviews, is better suited to the physical format. "We can't compete with the speed and accessibility of social media on breaking news, but we can think differently about what we put in the programme, like exclusive columns," he commented.

At Berwick Rangers, we have a long history of producing award-winning programmes thanks to Dennis McCleary. "We pride ourselves in producing a programme year in, year out," Dennis said. "Sales have dropped over the years, but we still get a ratio of around 1 in 4 to 1 in 5 buying, and last season, forgetting advert revenue, the club made a decent surplus on sales over costs." We also have a digital version of the programme, which is made available to 1881 Club members.

The challenge to all football clubs, at every level, is surely to have digital and physical content working together in harmony to provide the supporter with high quality information about their club while also raising valuable funds.

experience as a pie is at half time. The sad fact is that some programmes in the English Championship offer poor value for money and have low quality content. Many fans have therefore, quite rightly, deemed them to be not worth buying. The majority of clubs, though, still produce a printed programme with many of them reporting healthy sales figures.

Paul Matz, who is the editor of 'Programme Monthly and Collectable', is very positive about the future of printed programmes. "Clubs are thinking more about programme content, and I think they recognise there is still a strong demand for them."

FOR WHOSE BENEFIT?

by GORDON BAXTER

When the Scotland U-21 team recently played Turkey U-21s, Scotland were completely outclassed for most of the game. The commentators made the point that the Turkey players were all playing for clubs where they were playing against full-time professionals. So what happened to Scottish football? Does anyone else remember how Andy Roxburgh laid the foundations to improve Scottish football across the board? And didn't his ideas get picked up by UEFA?



Last season there was the belief, expressed by some, that by allowing Colts teams to play in the Lowland League it would benefit Scottish football as a whole. Well, that didn't seem to happen, and the evidence for players coming through the Lowland League to play international football for Scotland is very sparse, at best. If you want professional players to improve, whatever their age, they need to be playing against other professional players, not against part-timers. It doesn't benefit the part-time players either.

Any neutral observer looking in from the outside could be forgiven for thinking that last season's colts teams were treated somewhat more favourably than the other teams in the league. They were allowed to move games around at pretty short notice, which is fine if playing football is your job, but not for the poor soul who works 9-5 for a living, and then has to travel for an evening game of football for

his club.

Last season's "experiment" was deemed a success, although it isn't clear what criteria were used to make that judgment. So, this season, it's going to be more of the same, only it will be "B" teams, rather than Colts teams, and there'll be three of them, rather than two, with Hearts joining in. It may be a useful run-out for squad players at those clubs, but it won't benefit the teams in the Lowland League. Fans of those clubs rarely travel in any numbers to away games, so they won't be boosting the coffers of teams like Berwick any time soon.

Scottish football is a bit of a mess at the moment, and putting "B" teams in the Lowland League isn't going to solve the problems. The four top divisions need completely re-organising, and the top two (four?) teams from the Highland and Lowland Leagues should be incorporated into a new set up. We've already seen how the top teams who've been promoted from those leagues can more than hold their own in the SPFL divisions. There also needs to be a sensible reserve (academy, B team, whatever you want to call it) re-instated by the SPFL, instead of expecting the Lowland League to provide a plaster on a gaping wound. Otherwise there no telling where it will stop. What is clear is that as things currently stand the teams in the Lowland League are being disadvantaged by the "B" teams set-up, if only because it means the team that wins the league will have played six more league games than the winners of the Highland League when it comes to the end of season play-offs.

It's time for a serious re-think right across the board for Scottish Football. If "B" teams are the answer, then it must have been a stupid question!

OVER THE WALL

A review of last season for our friends and neighbours at Tweedmouth Rangers by MICHAEL SMYTH

Tweedmouth Rangers' season did not finish until the last day in May when the Berwick team beat Thornton Hibs 5-3 on Old Shielfield to complete the East of Scotland League Cup's Qualifying programme. Twice postponed and with the League Cup Final due days later, the League insisted the match be played to safeguard the integrity of the tournament. From Tweedmouth's point of view it was worth it as the three points meant they finished fourth in the five team group leaving Hibs at the bottom.

The League Cup gives some indication of the strength of opposition Tweedmouth sometimes face. Jeanfield Swifts, who

In the League's Conference 'A' table, Rangers' position didn't alter at all during the second half of the season. They finished thirteenth out of fifteen adding two more wins to the four obtained before the New Year. Craigroyston were beaten 6-0 whilst, for the second time, St Andrews United were sunk by a late Michael Robinson goal as Tweedmouth achieved their only League double of the campaign.

St Andrews were a little miffed at not taking a point from an evenly matched encounter but the same could be said for Rangers at both Thornton and Edinburgh United where late, controversial refereeing decisions went against them in 1-0 defeats.

For 2022-23 the Conferences have gone with a four division structure introduced. Champions Tranent have departed for the Lowland League after winning a three way play off also involving West of Scotland League winners Darvel and South of Scotland champions St Cuthbert Wanderers from Kirkcudbright. After an often tumultuous Lowland season, Innerleithen-based Vale of Leithen were relegated back to the East League, one of 16 teams in the Premier Division.

Tweedmouth needed a never realistic top seven Conference 'A' finish to qualify for the new 16 team First Division so will be in the 18 team Second Division with some familiar opponents. These include Borders clubs Peebles Rovers and Hawick Royal Albert United and East Lothian's Ormiston who, harking back to their Junior origins, have restored the appendage 'Primrose' to their title.

Less is known about the two sides promoted to Tweedmouth's tier from Conference 'X',

Whitburn and Syngenta, the latter playing home fixtures at SPFL Stenhousemuir's Ochilview. Based on experiences last term they are likely to be strong.

Tweedmouth met two 'X' teams in Cup competitions starting with a visit to Newtown Park where Bo'ness Athletic had to overcome stuffy resistance before making it to the next stage of the King Cup. Making his debut that day was midfielder Archie Roue, taken on loan from Lowland League Gala Fairydean Rovers for the remainder of the season. His performance in the win over Craigroyston in April earned him a nomination for East League 'Player of the Week'. Tweedmouth tried hard to sign him on a permanent basis but the Edinburgh-based player has opted for Vale of Leithen.

In the League Cup Qualifiers, Armadale Thistle promoted the Berwickers' trip to Volunteer Park as a Scotland v England affair and in front of a 220 attendance, the visitors acquitted themselves well despite a 3-0 loss. None more so than recently signed goalkeeper Niall Frampton whom even the very hospitable hosts acknowledged was the overall man of the match.

Clearly, some of the new Third Division members such as Athletic and Thistle are better than some now placed in divisions above. In truth, the ex-'X' men, predominantly from West Lothian, are paying the price for coming late into Scotland's football 'pyramid'. Their division, even with the addition of Harthill Royal, is the smallest with just 10 clubs. Harthill's switch to the East after one season in the West means an overall increase of one in EoS membership bringing the total number of teams up to sixty.

Most of these clubs pay their players in one way or another. After all, the League has absorbed a large number of former Junior clubs and the Junior game was based on the premise of semi-professionalism. Up to now, as an essentially amateur club, TRFC have

been in the minority but they are now edging towards semi-pro status.

Reasons for the move include the need to keep and attract players but they insist they will not splash out 'silly money' in order to sign



*Tweedmouth in action v Armadale
photo courtesy of Ian Cunningham*

a 'name'. There was no suggestion that fellow Conference 'A' members Rosyth did anything wrong when they made an unsuccessful bid for Drew Cummings during the course of last season but if a player is signed on amateur forms any interested club is free to contact him directly about transferring to them. If on a professional contract, any expression of interest must be channelled through his current club.

Gate takings from home games tend to be swallowed up by referees' fees and travelling expenses but Rangers have three main sponsors on board for the new season viz. JT Dove, Jewson and Castle Scaffold. Individual match and match ball sponsorship was patchy last season so the club will be looking to improve on that as well as again seeking individual players' kit sponsorship.

Almost exactly two months since Drew Cummings signed off 2021-22 with his second goal against Thornton with literally the last kick of the game, the new campaign is scheduled to begin on July 30th.



*Goalmouth action from Tweedmouth v Craigroyston
photo courtesy of Gary Smith*

finished fourth in the Premier Division, came down from Perth and proved to be the best footballing team met all season. Yet, top spot in the group went to Conference 'B' runners up Glenrothes whom a month before hosting the Berwick club had signed striker Stuart Cargill. He may have been 33 years of age but the former East Fife and Kelty Hearts man, who once reportedly had a market value in excess of £20,000, could still score goals as he showed with a hat trick in Glens' 5-1 win at the Warout Stadium.

WHO ARE THEY?

by **STUART ROBSON**

We live in a connected world as global citizens and yet the language of football appears to be universal. Or it is, at least until you identify as a Berwick Rangers supporter and the response is always “who are they?”.

I left our home town for university back in 1992 and have travelled and worked all around the globe since. I was fortunate when I still resided in the UK that I was often able to align a trip up north to see the Old Dear with a home game. But as I have moved further afield and trips home have become harder to arrange (think planes, trains and automobiles), aligning them with a home fixture itself has gotten harder and harder. I remember arranging a trip to the UK and getting home to Berwick only to find the weather has put paid to a game I had been looking forward to for so long.

I have chatted to people from many countries as I have watched football in bars from Hamburg to Mumbai, Luanda and Toronto. And football is always the great leveller; the conversation opener. I have lived in the Middle East and now in Southern California and when conversation turns to football everyone assumes your number 1 team is at the top end of the Premier League but when you turn around and proudly announce that you support Berwick Rangers the response is always “Who are they?” You explain that this is your home town team and you don't really get to choose. But I have found that that “Who are they?” can lead to some questions and people have gone and looked into the team and the town. Amongst people who I work with, some of them have even started to look out for the results. Then you get the plastic fans, who have never been to a game and always ask “who are they? What have they won?” and they realise that we live for scraps of success and despair. In our Middle

East Office, in the Division winning season of 2006-7 nobody asked “who are they?”, they knew!!

My colleagues in the US here were plainly aware of the relegation to the Lowland League through my demeanour, having had to put it into the context for them of their franchise team moving state and they have to resort to the local team in the Little Leagues. But we know it's not the same.

“Who are they?” often leads to “where is that?” and I find myself playing the unofficial tourism representative for the town I love as I extoll the virtues and history of home.

We did have our own “Who are they?” moment in Dubai when we watched Dortmund (Klopp was their boss at the time) in their 2011-2012 mid-season break, with the soon to sign for Man Utd, Kagawa play a Korean team that we had never heard of. And had to ask the many Koreans around us “who are they?” as we had turned up to see Dortmund.

Sadly with limited access in the Middle East and the US I have to admit that I have now taken my son to more professional baseball games than football matches. I have never given him a half time pie in the Duckett just an overpriced hot dog in the corporate stand at the Big A. I have tried to explain to my son the joys of being in the Junior Supporters club (many moons ago), John Ferguson hosting 5-a-side in the High School gym and then coordinating us as ball boys and some dodgy tracksuit we had to wear but he doesn't understand the association with his modern life. They don't win anything, why do you support them? But maybe he is beginning to understand as a fan of Otani and the Angels not being so great that maybe hope is the reason we put up with

the despair of relegation.

For now I content myself with following the team online and I look forward to the day that I can travel from the US, take my son, once he turns 18 and have him buy me a pre-game pint before we take in that first game. Then maybe he won't turn around and ask again “Who are they?”

People talk about the modern greats like Ronaldo and Messi and they ask “could they do it on a cold wet Tuesday night at Stoke.” But we all think about a Tuesday night at Shielfield with the sleet blowing in from the North Sea. I think about the nights I have walked home from there, walked in the door and been handed a hot water bottle to thaw myself out again.

Supermac in the Tweed View and Alan Bowes

and wife Andrea holding court in Tweed View and The Walls with their NSC while syphoning money out of the club. 2 sad years which almost tore the heart of the town out.

Pop Robson visiting with Carlisle. I remember travelling up from the South to watch the Celtic game at Tynecastle and the joys in Dubai of finding the Rangers game available on the local sports channel. Watching “They think it's all over” on video with my mates in the south and the infamous chant turning the watching party into mirth....

But most of all I remember the soul of the town, my home town. The hope that goes with following the under-dog and the many conversations over the years that have followed “Who are they?”

2022/23 SEASON

MATCH DAY SPONSORSHIP

MATCH £250 (+VAT)

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A SUMMERY SUMMARY

by **STUART BELL**

I didn't make any of the friendlies, thanks jointly to train strikes and holidays, so can't comment on the promise – or otherwise - of our new recruits. I've been banging on for some time about the need for experience to add to the talent and effort of last year's side, but to be honest, I wasn't expecting anything quite so geriatric.

We sure need some people on the pitch to dish out a respected bollocking when a young colleague's attention strays to a fish supper. Someone to add a bit of calm, or to hoof the ball into the Maltings when we are 1-up with 5 minutes to go. Someone to leave that tricky winger face down in the mud without the ref realising what actually happened. There is a clear border between 'experienced' and 'clapped out and knackered' and that border is often crossed in your mid-30's. I guess we will see for sure when the pitch turns into a pudding for Christmas.

One very unscientific way of gauging a new player's worth, is to look at the reaction of fans at his previous club on any fans forum that takes your fancy. The comments range from "Nooooo! Why are they getting rid of him?" to "Good riddance. Monumental bell end" and all points in between. Calum Antell - who I thought was the best keeper I'd seen at Shielfield when he first arrived 10 years ago – sadly sits nearer the latter category. Liam Buchanan though, is nearer the former. Once again, we shall see if either is near the mark. That takes me neatly to the main thrust of this article – fans opinions. Back in the days when Facebook was just an imaginary \$ sign in Mark Zuckerberg's head and t'internet was only available to pony-tailed nobheads, we relied on newspapers, Teletext and Fanzines for information. Perhaps the best loved Scottish football Fanzine was 'The Absolute

game'. Founded by the legendary Mad Mac, there were several issues each season (whenever he'd received enough rants and could be arsed to go down the printers), with contributions from the wonderfully witty Alistair Mc Sporrán, a pompous spoof column by one Bruno Glanvilla and occasional drivel about Berwick Rangers from the handsome and erudite Redcar Loony. (Wonder what became of him?)

Whilst dodging spiders in the back of my garage (some of which could have eaten a coconut), I came across edition No.59 (Spring 2002) – an absolute snip at £1.50. The front cover 'celebrates' the appointment of Bertie Vogts as Scotland Manager and a short article inside from Thomas Buller suggests that Bertie's appointment was not a flash of blue-sky inspiration at SFA HQ. He said that it was "a relief to all concerned" when he resigned from Bayer Leverkusen. His press conferences were "embarrassing" and generally intimidated that Vogts made Ally McLeod look like a management guru – the Jimmy Thomson of international managers.

I think you may agree that Herr Buller got it right. Bertie Vogts resigned after a draw with Moldova scuppered qualification for the 2006 World Cup (citing "disgraceful abuse" from fans) and notched up a quick hat-trick by soon resigning from Nigeria and Azerbaijan, too. My own article concentrated on our 3rd round cup tie with Rangers that – a big first for Berwick – was shown live on Sky Sports.

We'd had a poor season and had lost 5-2 at home to Cowdenbeath in the league but ground out a 1-0 win in the cup. As I said, in those days the first news of the 3rd round cup draw was on Teletext (ask your Grandad, sonny) and - deep joy – it was revealed that

we'd drawn the big Rangers in the third round. Jamie Curle was chairman at the time, and the joy was soon followed by a period of angst that had him pulling what was left of his hair from his bonce. Sky TV sent several big trucks and a large cheque to Shielfield and Jamie busily arranged for several tins of paint and some light bulbs to tart up the ground for our big day on the telly. Unfortunately, a large area of high pressure over Scandinavia had other ideas at it sent temperatures plummeting across the country and despite covering the pitch, the match had to be postponed. Sky's wagons trundled back down the A1 with Jamie hanging on to the back bumper. It appeared that our big day on TV was not to be. Sky would have stayed till the following Tuesday, but Northumberland plod couldn't manage that evening as they were watching Emmerdale, so the game would not take place until a week after that.

Several begging letters ensued, and the broad grin was back on Jamie's face when Sky said

that they would indeed come back and cover the tie after all. The heating was turned up to such an extent, that when the covers were finally removed the pitch was sprouting cacti and wild Mediterranean herbs.

The game itself was a triumph. Rangers had the likes of Lorenzo Amoroso, Ronald de Boer, Andrei Kanchelskis and Tore Andre Flo strutting about the Shielfield turf, but they couldn't get the better of Darren Smith, Garry Wood, and man of the match Alan Neill as we got a 0-0 draw in front of over 4,000 fans.

The last word I'll leave to our very own Jack Mathieson. In the Absolute Game I quoted a cracking line from his report in the Daily Record. "Rangers fans should not be too down. After Queen of the South and Clydebank, Rangers are the best team I've seen at Shielfield this season".

Da da da da – Charge!!!

WANTED

Media team volunteers

BRFC are looking for volunteers to join the media team for the 22/23 season.

The club is looking for:

- Written Match Reporters
- Live Twitter Reporters
- Match Day Media Reporters

Interested parties please contact Nathan on nathan@berwickrangers.com





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BERWICK RANGERS JUNIORS

by DAVID LETHAM



Berwick Rangers juniors presented one of the founders of Berwick Rangers Juniors, Robert Johnson, with a framed photo of Berwick Rangers and all the Juniors together; the first team through to U7's. Something Robert had been waiting a long time to see.

When asked about starting the juniors he said, "the town had no football club for kids at the time and something had to be done". Off the back of the creation of the juniors, Robert played a crucial part in starting our Dutch exchange. He reminisced about the first trip to Holland and the "excellent behaviour" of the 20 or so kids that made that trip along with Sandy Greive and Jimmy Godsell.

When asked about the club he said, "I never thought too much about it at the time, but I am so pleased that the club is still ongoing after all these years". He also spoke encouragingly about our use of the all-weather pitch at the sports centre. Moving forward Robert had one simple wish for the club. "As long as we are giving kids

the opportunity to play football, teaching them right from wrong and helping to produce good hard working young adults I'm happy".

It was good to catch up with Robert and we hope that his wish for Berwick Juniors continues for many more years.

It was great to see Lewis Baker, Lewis Allan and club captain, Jamie Pyper at Shielfield Park leading some mini games with Berwick Rangers Juniors at their end of season fun day.



UNDER 20'S - WHAT'S THE POINT?

by **ANDREW ALLAN**

There are a number of strong and often repeated opinions about running under 20's development teams; from 'it's a waste of money for no return' to 'Berwick are not playing any local guys, if we had a local development team, it'd be different'

and b) keenly give up their Friday nights every week for match night? As this is when all SLFL Development matches are played. Alongside that unlikely scenario, the squad would need real development potential; strong enough to compete with the established 70 or so clubs already with under 20's teams (Dunbar Utd have just launched theirs this season) and committed to development though a love for the game. All telling me that home-grown is just not viable.

Reflect however on those days when our Development Squad narrowly ran full time teams close one season and finished high in following seasons tables. So, we have the potential and (with the 7 players still playing) produced players who did develop and, who knows, may have gone higher had we not pulled the plug on providing a Berwick Rangers development environment under good coaches. There were a number of local players, but mostly they were from the central belt.

The real point, however, is that the chances of BRFC becoming cash rich to the tune of having a player budget of £250k+ every season; more (much more) if we were to progress up the leagues are slim to zero. The community can't sustain that; the great volunteers on the Club Board over the recent years will attest to that.

So, we need to grow our own, and compete with the 70 or so other clubs also doing so. It's not a nice to have; it's a need to have to underpin buying talent, providing a sustainable supplement to the squad. Not an overnight fix, however we need to start as we're already behind the curve with so many

of our competitors already developing young players in the Development League.

In the weeks to come, The Berwick Rangers Trust will sit with Directors and Coaches at BRFC to create the brief for running an under 20's squad for an initial 2 seasons; things like training venue, a paid UEFA qualified coach, strips and training resources, coach travel are all on the agenda.

I hope this finds favour with our supporters near and far, although I'm a realist and give it at best a 50/50 chance of getting off the ground. When we reach consensus on the

scope of the project, it will have a budget attached and The Trust will then launch a Crowd Funding initiative, hopefully in time to launch next season.

Not everyone will agree that there is value in this, however it won't hinder The Trust trying it's best to give it a ago for the good of our club and, hopefully, provide a development environment for any local boys who have the desire and commitment to try to be the best they can be and hopefully pull on the Black & Gold. Watch this space.



Former Development Squad Player Grant Rose Scoring for the First Team. Photograph Courtesy of Ian Runciman Photography

Both have merit to be fair; although regarding the former, although the current squad have no Indigenous Berwickers, there are young players from our last Development Squad still playing in SLFL and EoSL. Jack Cook being the last Dev Squad player to play for the 1st team.

Equally, and realistically re the latter, does anyone think we can create a squad of 20 to 25, 16- to 20-year-old boys from our region who a) will train hard twice a week, every week



Former Development Squad GK Stuart Allan, now Head Coach of Dunbar Utd Under 20's Photograph Courtesy of Caledonia Photo

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

by DAVID LETHAM

A new partnership has been formed by two local charities with the aim of further boosting football-for-all in and around Berwick.



Berwick Rangers Juniors and the Berwick Rangers Community Foundation will work closely together to ensure more boys, girls, women, and men are able to enjoy playing football. Having been on-the-go for over 30 years, the 'Juniors' have coached thousands of local boys and girls, with many of the first players now coming back as parents and coaches for the new generation. Additionally, in conjunction with the Foundation, junior football training has once again been fully opened to girls in Berwick, with the 'Wildcats' girls coaching winning the FA Grassroots Football awards..

Both charities will remain separate organisations from a governance and management point of view within The Berwick Rangers Football and Community Partnership. However, they will work closely together to achieve their joint ambition of reaching out to youngsters, and increasingly adults, of all backgrounds and abilities, who wouldn't normally think about playing football.

Commenting on the partnership, ex-Berwick Rangers player and chair of the Foundation, Warren Hawke, said: "The Foundation is delighted to be working closely with Berwick Rangers Juniors, an organisation that's truly part of the fabric of football in Berwick and has coached so many junior players over the years."

"By forming this partnership, we hope to be

able to work together to access additional funding that will allow the health and community benefits of all-ability football to be enjoyed by more people in and around Berwick."

Steven Ingram, chairman of Berwick Rangers Juniors said: "Forming a partnership with the Foundation gives us a great opportunity to provide yet more safe, inclusive, and enjoyable participation in football for young people of all backgrounds and abilities in the Berwick area for many more years.

"We're always on the lookout for the next players who might make it to the Berwick Rangers squad, but equally, we want to see more boys and girls enjoying football and having an enjoyable, healthy start to life, no matter what their football ability is. This partnership will help us achieve both objectives."

Junior players, coaches, and parents will not notice any organisational differences, with all coaching and playing arrangements remaining as they have been.



END OF SEASON AWARDS

by DAVID LETHAM

The club officials, players and supporters gathered in the Black and Gold for the club's annual end of season awards ceremony. Club secretary, Dennis McCleary, hosted the event, and would be confirmed as the new Honorary President following a lengthy spell as Honorary Vice-President. It was also revealed that the role he vacates will be filled by club legend Eric Tait.

End of season award winners:

Representative of a season where the 'Gers have been much improved in general, four different players scooped awards on the evening.

Versatile defender David Ferguson won the coveted Players' Player of the Year award and received the plaudits of club officials as he was named Directors' Player of the Year. Versatile defender David Ferguson won the coveted Players' Player of the Year award and received the plaudits of club officials as he was named Directors' Player of the Year. The influential defender has made 35 appearances in total this season, chipping in going forward with 5 assists.

Testament to the club's defensive improvement this season, Captain Jamie Pyper scooped the Steven Mitchell Memorial award for solid efforts throughout his 33 appearances this season, with that Player of the Year award voted for by Berwick Juniors.

New this year was the David Spence Supporters Player of the Year award, voted for

by members of Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust and Berwick Rangers Supporters' Club, and aiming to honour Davie's significant contribution to the club and supporters' organisations throughout his lifetime. Graham Taylor's explosive first season in Black and Gold was also recognised, with the exciting winger scooping the award. Graham was also named social media Player of the Year after racking up votes in the club's post-home game social media man of the match award votes throughout the season.

Talented youngster Ciaran Heeps was named Young Player of the Year as he scooped the Raymond Hogg award, while Helena and Sean Jackson won the Jossie Johnson award for their outstanding voluntary contributions to the club over the years.



The club would like to congratulate all the winners and thank the entire squad, as well as officials and volunteers, for their efforts this campaign.

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LET IT BRFC
OFFICIAL BERWICK RANGERS PODCAST

THANK YOU FROM THE CLUB

by DAVID LETHAM

All at BRFC would like to thank each one of the first-class volunteers who keep the club moving on match day and beyond. It's a real team effort and every individual plays their part to bring football to our town and communities. Special thank you on this occasion to one of our club photographers, Ian Runciman (who works alongside Alan Bell to keep abreast of all the action!) for capturing these wonderful images, highlighting the often un-sung heroes who each deserve a huge thank you for their continued service to our club. Thank you all, whether Ian snapped you in action! We look forward to seeing you again soon.

the club welcomed volunteers to at Shielfield Park on Sunday 24th of July to help provide the ground with some TLC ahead of our return to competitive action against Celtic B on the following Tuesday evening.

With tasks ranging from weeding to sweeping, cleaning to painting the assistance was very much appreciated. All volunteers were welcomed to Shielfield Park for the Tuesday evening game against Celtic B free of charge as a demonstration of our appreciation.

Trust committee member and volunteer David Letham commented:

"Without their support we would be much more limited in our reach. We hope that volunteers gain from being with us - in terms of friendships, learning new skills, meeting new people, and being satisfied that they have made a difference - this remains the biggest motivating factor in people coming forward to volunteer. The club reflect on

everything achieved and look forward to new and exciting ventures with volunteers at the heart of many things we do."

If you feel you can offer help to the club, please get in touch, club@berwickrangers.com.



ST ANDREWS BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS

by DAVID LETHAM

I'll start this with a special thanks to Jamie Pyper, I have never met Jamie but the support he offered to a tweet I sent was fantastic. It was about my dad getting to the game now he is not able to walk quite as far as he used to.

"just saw your tweet there, if you need any help with your dad when you're at the game let me know myself and all the boys would be more than happy to help, even if it's the short walk he wants to take would love to help in anyway. More than happy to help in any way possible, fair play to him wanting to go to the game hopefully he leaves smiling and we make it a good day for you both, can only imagine how tough things must be hope you all as a family are staying positive and keeping the old boy smiling away".

Thanks goes out to all those who have contributed with contacts as I struggled to find out anything regarding disabled access to Ferguson Park (where Hears B play). The lack of information or responses to enquiries was rather frustrating. Having to get contact information from Dennis McCleary Berwicks club secretary and a phone number sent to me though Facebook from Gary O'Connor shouldn't be how these things are done.

What a couple of seasons it's been, it's been difficult to get a handle on how things are. Covid has had a major impact and we've just been riding it out. It does seem that it gave the club a bit of breathing space to get into the right mindset for the lowland league and to sort out the finances. St Andrews Berwick Rangers Supporters have continued to contribute where we can. Money is getting tight for most folk now so it's important to try and help when

we can. We have taken the sponsorship for Calum Antell this season, sticking with



Another sunny day in Cumbernauld

our tradition to sponsor a keeper and will maintain our board in the ground. There will undoubtedly be other things we look at as the season progresses, match sponsorships etc. I will of course be volunteering my services on matchday if required, Turnstiles operator or whatever is required on the day.

The end of season award was merged into the supporters trust/Club award – the David Spence Supporters Player of the Year award. St Andrews Berwick Rangers Supported paid for the glass plaque for this season.

Talk among the group in the last few weeks has evolved around the inclusion of the

B teams in the league. Most people don't understand why they are included and why other teams are not promoted. It's a difficult thing to try to explain to people. A few people at my workplace (St Andrews university) are interested in football, they come from various countries but unable to work out what is going on in Scottish football. At times I'm unable to work out what's going on in Scottish football. From the premier league split right down to the Lowland league/Highland league playoffs people are scratching their heads. Then the mention of the B teams and I need to stand up at a whiteboard or have a PowerPoint presentation with questions at the end. Well, the results don't count, but they do really count because the points count, are you still with me... But don't worry, the B teams won't have an impact on promotion or relegation..... (well they can because points count, their league standings are removed....)



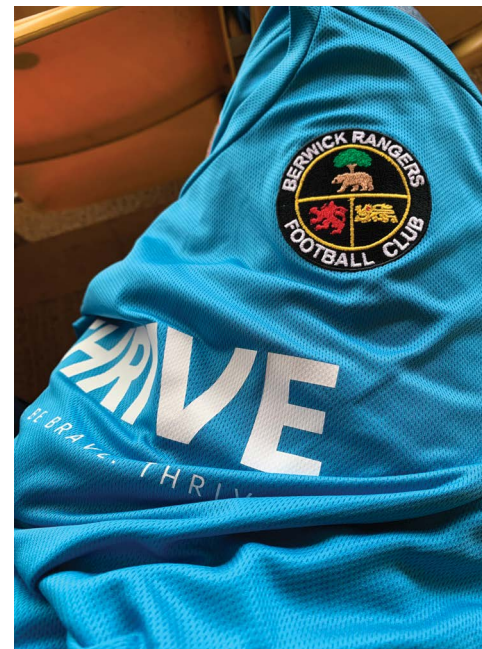
The B teams really throw a spanner in the works, point count and that can have an impact. The squads and teams that are on the park can vary wildly, who knows what level of team Berwick will face this season. There's 18 points up for grabs against the B teams this season, that's not an insignificant number. Berwick missed out on qualification for a cup this season, a cup we would have qualified for if points against the B teams didn't count. A cup that can bring money to the club. There is no money in the league. You get the same for

finishing first as you do for last, £0.

The opening to the season has already been amended, Rangers B requesting their first fixture to be moved from the Saturday to the Friday night because the rangers first team are playing Spurs at Ibrox in a friendly on the Saturday and the B team want to be there for it. The unbalanced league also sees East Stirling sitting at home with no fixture to play on the opening weekend. Surely an extra promotion slot could have been opened to balance the league to 20? Or are we still under the illusion that the 3 B teams will not be in the Lowland league next season? Or is there now space for 1 more....

I personally have a real issue with the lowland league right now. Everything seems so last minute. The B team proposals seemed to shift every week until finally they got in. Goalposts changing every few days. Then as I write this the league fixtures are announced on social media, completely messed up fixtures and nobody seemed to have checked them. Berwick playing 2 different teams on the opening day of July 30th. The graphic produced for social media missed the fact that the opening day is July 23rd and not the 30th. With so much heat on the league with the inclusion of the B teams, such a basic mistake added more fuel to the fire of the "tinpot league". The carrot of league reconstruction talks that was dangled as part of the inclusion of the B teams has just been blown out of the water as I write this, I'm writing this before the season has even kicked off. This yet again adds to the shambles of the organisation of the Lowland league. Everything is backwards and promises that cannot be fulfilled because the other parties who need to make things happen are not interested or haven't even been consulted.

"Any attempt to force through league reconstruction for season 2023/24 will be snubbed by League Two clubs who aren't willing to see the game changed.



The SFA promised to lead a review of the pyramid as part of the deal that allowed three Premiership B teams to enter the Lowland League for a second season. Celtic, Hearts and Rangers will all take part in the fifth-tier next season. But the Scottish Sun claim all 10 League Two clubs have made it clear they won't take part in any restructuring talks ahead of the new campaign. They will snub any bid to change the league structure. It means any plan is likely to be rejected because it would need 75 per cent of League One and Two clubs combined but with all the bottom tier sides against it, the reconstruction plans now look doomed. League Two clubs were left fizzing by the statement that confirmed the three clubs being entered into the Lowland League because it promised reconstruction talks."

The Lowland league is still associated with the disgraced sponsor who is being taken to court by Livingston, Falkirk and many other businesses for failure to pay the sponsorship money to those clubs, even staff at a chip

shop owned by the sponsor are due money. Ardeer Thistle that were to be taken over by the sponsor have now released a statement to say it's not happening. The lowland league have kept silent and continued to put the sponsors logo on media output. Another bit of information that has come to light too is that the promised £7500 per club that was to be issued as part of the B team money is now going to be £5000. There seemed to be no viable explanation for this at the time of writing, but it came as a surprise to many. Nobody seems to know what happened to the £50k from last years B teams, it certainly wasn't passed to the clubs.

Enough grumbling though, it is what it is, and we must make the best of it. Looking forward to the season we have added some experienced signings to the squad that can hopefully balance the team and win us some games. I have no idea how this campaign will go. There are still strong teams in the league, some with more money than league 2 clubs but hopefully we have a chance. It's still incredibly difficult to progress through but surely a top 4 finish is within grasp (B teams not included). If we can work our way up, we should be with a chance in the next couple of years...

I've been to Berwick for the friendlies against Stenhousemuir, Consett, South Shields and Preston Athletic. I took in the away game against Newtongrange Star. It was difficult to take anything away from these games. At the time we had several injuries and players away on holiday. Two B teams Hearts and Celtic in the first week of fixtures are a tough start too. We can only sit back and see how the season unfolds.

WILDCATS - "IT'S NOT JUST FOOTBALL"

by DAVID LETHAM

The wildcats posted a reminder on Facebook for attendees to bring water to the sessions. The Trust having spotted this have paid for reusable water bottles for all the wildcats. We hope the Trust members agree that this is a good use of a small amount of our funds and helps promote the Trust and Berwick Rangers in the community.

The wildcats are still growing in numbers and are a great asset to the community. It has made a difference in several ways.

5 local First Schools got together as part of their transition to Middle School programme and in preparation for a residential trip to Kielder Forest in June. The children were described as nervous, however when they met up, several of the girls recognised their fellow FA Wildcats and other girls who participated in the FA Schools Girls football day we organised.

Feedback from the schools' state that the wildcat sessions seem to have given the girls a real sense of confidence and the chance to meet and make new friends across the town of Berwick and beyond.

The older Wildercats sessions that follow the Berwick Rangers Wildcats on a Thursday evening are growing in popularity encouraging older girls and women to play the "beautiful game". If any older girls or women want to come along and join in get in touch, wildcats can be contacted on social media under the community foundation.

The Berwick Rangers Wildcats girls' football training group won a prestigious FA award this year. Despite being in operation for only

18 months, the Wildcats were announced as winners of the Northumberland FA Grassroots Football Project of the Year at a prestigious ceremony at Newcastle's Crown Plaza Hotel tonight, Friday 22nd July.

Commenting on the award, the judges said that the Berwick Rangers Wildcats had



transformed girls' football in Berwick.

Andy Thorpe, head coach of the Berwick Rangers Wildcats said: "This award is recognition the hard work and dedication of all our coaches and players. The Wildcat girls have not only trained hard but have had a really brilliant time at our sessions. It's also fantastic to see that some of our older girls have taken on additional responsibilities at the sessions, helping develop the other players as well as themselves.

"We're all incredibly proud of winning this award and look forward to further developing girls' football in Berwick."

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FROM THE ARCHIVES: FIRST ISSUE, MAY 2003



NEWSLETTER OF BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS TRUST

MAY 2003

Two Key Aims Achieved in Eight Weeks!

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

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

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

Trust on the Web

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

www.berwickrangerstrust.co.uk

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

Committee

The following people are serving on the Trust's Committee until the first AGM, when the members will elect their committee: **John Bell, Bill Parkin, Kirsty McLeod, Bill Purvis, Colin Pike, Gordon Dickson, Keith Hall, David Cook, Stewart Lee, Kevin McCormick, Paul Smith, George Thompson and Colin Pike.** **David Cook** is Trust Secretary and **Gordon Dickson** is Treasurer and looking after membership applications and standing orders. **Kirsty McLeod** will head a fund-raising team.

Diary Dates

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

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

Also:

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

Stadium Safety:

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

Junior Supporters:

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

Shares:

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

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

Members Roll-Call

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

Members to date are:

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

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

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

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

JUBILEE AND THE FAMOUS VICTORY

by DAVID LETHAM

The club's famous Scottish Cup victory against Rangers FC in 1967 featured in a photographic exhibition to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The exhibition highlighted local events during the Queen's 70-year reign and was held in Berwick Town Hall.

the famous 1967 Scottish Cup victory over Glasgow Rangers is still widely renowned as one of the greatest ever cup shocks.

Rangers were one of the most successful teams in Scotland, having won the Scottish League several times and the Scottish Cup nineteen times. Berwick Rangers were relative newcomers to the Scottish Football League, having only joined in 1955. In May 1964, Rangers had tried to force league reconstruction, which would have meant Berwick Rangers and four other teams being expelled from the league. The five teams went to court to fight this proposal, but the court found in Rangers favour of league reconstruction. The teams appealed to the Inner House of the Court of Session and with support from Celtic's chairman Robert Kelly, this proposal was eventually dropped. Berwick Rangers had met Rangers three times previously and had lost each time, 4-0 in the Scottish Cup at Ibrox in 1953, 3-1 in the Scottish Cup at Shielfield in 1960 and 3-1 in the semi-final of the 1963-64 Scottish League Cup at Hampden Park in October 1963.

In the 1966-67 Scottish Cup competition, Rangers, the cup holders, were given a bye to the first round and drawn against Berwick Rangers, which was due to be played on 28 January 1967. Berwick Rangers had already

played in two earlier preliminary rounds. In the first preliminary round they had beaten Vale of Leithen 8-1 on 17 December 1966 at Victoria Park, a club record cup win, and a record away win. In the second preliminary round they had beaten Forfar Athletic 2-0 on 7 January 1967 at home. Despite their convincing victories in the preliminary rounds Berwick were given little or no chance of beating Rangers.[4] The Glasgow Herald said on the day of the match, "Anything other than a comfortable Rangers victory must be deemed a surprise". The Rangers team featured nine players with international caps while Berwick Rangers were composed of part timers. At the time of the match, Rangers were in second place in the Scottish League Division One and Berwick Rangers were tenth in Scottish League Division Two.

Match details

13,365 packed into Shielfield Park that Saturday, a record attendance at the ground. From kick off, Rangers immediately went on the attack, forcing three corners in the opening five minutes. Alex Smith, Willie Henderson and Willie Johnston all went close for Rangers. Henderson went down in the box under a challenge from Kilgannon but his call for a penalty was dismissed. Rangers continued to press and Coutt's intervention prevented Alex Smith from a near certain scoring opportunity. By the half-hour mark, Rangers had forced 10 corners. However, in the 32nd minute, Dowds and Christie carved open the Rangers defence, Christie passed to Sammy Reid who blasted it past Martin in off the post. Two minutes later, Christie had a golden chance to make it 2-0 but his half-hit shot was comfortably saved by Martin. Apart from a shot from John Greig which went

narrowly wide, Berwick comfortably saw out the first half.

In the second half, Berwick continued to trouble Rangers with several chances. In the 65th minute following a collision with Jock Wallace, Willie Johnston was stretchered off with a broken leg. Johnston was substituted in the 66th minute by Davie Wilson, who had scored 3 goals against Berwick Rangers when they met in 1960. Despite frantic attempts from Wilson, Greig and George McLean, they were unable to penetrate the Berwick goal. It

wasn't all one-way traffic however, Berwick's Alan Ainslie forced Norrie Martin into a fine save and hit the post. Legend has it that in the 94th minute, Greig had asked referee Eddie Thomson for another couple of minutes but was told "I've already given you four". Wallace played the entire second half in goal despite losing a contact lens in the mud and claimed that they should have won 3-0 as "we missed far easier chances than the one Sammy Reid scored from".

At the final whistle, Greig sportingly shook the



hand of every Berwick player as they left the field.

Aftermath

The defeat of Rangers sent shock waves around Scottish football; it was the first time they'd been knocked out in the first round since they lost to Queen of the South by the same score almost 30 years before to the day on 30 January 1937. It was the first time they'd lost to a second division club. Rangers' captain John Greig described the result as "probably the worst result in the history of our club", while The Scotsman described it as "the most ludicrous, the weirdest, the most astonishing result ever returned in Scottish football". Despite being prolific strikers for Rangers, Jim Forrest and George McLean were made scapegoats for the defeat and never played for Rangers again and within weeks were transferred to Preston North End and Dundee respectively.

The loss of McLean and Forrest allowed two notable players their chance with Rangers; Sandy Jardine was immediately drafted from the reserves to the first team (and went on to play 674 games for Rangers over the next 15 years) and Symon paid a then record fee between two Scottish clubs of £65,000 to sign the striker Alex Ferguson from Dunfermline Athletic that summer.

In a bizarre coda to the game, later that night, Berwick's chairman Dr James Sadler and his wife were injured following a car crash with a car driven by a Rangers supporter.

Goal hero Sammy Reid had to go back to his job as a gear cutter in an engineering yard on the Sunday after the game to make up the time he had been given off earlier in the week for training.

Rangers early exit from the Scottish Cup is said to have made Celtic's treble win that year easier, and even sown the seeds of Celtic's dominance of Scottish football in the late sixties and early seventies.

Berwick were drawn against Hibernian in the second round away at Easter Road, Edinburgh on 18 February 1967, but lost 1-0 in front of a crowd of nearly 31,000, though Berwick had a goal by Ken Dowd disallowed in the first half and Jock Wallace saved a penalty.

Rangers eventually went on to reach the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup that season but lost 1-0 to German side Bayern Munich. Forrest and McLean hadn't been replaced and defender Roger Hynd played up front in that game. Rangers player Dave Smith later argued that the knee jerk reaction of dropping Forrest and McLean probably cost them the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Two years later, Berwick manager Jock Wallace left to become coach at Hearts and subsequently went on to coach at Rangers, eventually becoming their manager in 1972. Dave Smith, one of the Rangers players that day, subsequently managed Berwick between 1976 and 1980 leading them to their first League championship in 1979. Exactly 11 years later, the teams met again at Shielfield in the 1977-78 Scottish Cup with Smith and Wallace on opposite teams from 1967, this time the result went to form with Rangers winning 4-2.

CLUB SPONSORS FOR THE COMING SEASON

It's great to see so many sponsors willing to put their name out there in association with the team.

B2B learning and skills platform THRIVE has agreed to continue as main shirt sponsor for a third consecutive season.

The Nottingham-based company's logo will be on the club's home and away shirts during the 2022/23 season, and we'd like to extend our sincere thanks to THRIVE for this invaluable support.



K. Dixon Building Services the North East's premier building firm agreed to sponsor the team's travel kit for the 2022/23 season.

Established in 1997 and headquartered in the town, the company provides reliable and trustworthy building, roofing, joinery, plastering, tiling and plumbing services across the Northeast and throughout the Scottish Borders.

The company's portfolio consists of a variety of work including private homes, commercial properties, local authority and sub-contract work.



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admin@dixonbuilders.co.uk

Frequent matchday sponsors in 2021/22, Fork Truck Borders Instruction Ltd (FBI) have very generously elevated their backing of the club for the upcoming campaign by becoming shirt sleeve sponsors.

Covering all of Scotland, FBI has more than two decades of experience in training for forklift trucks, mobile elevated platforms, cranes, banksmen, plants & equipment, diggers and health & safety. Their work has led trained over 15,000 people throughout the UK, helping keep people safe.



filbi.co.uk
07976 225765

Nationwide electrical contractor AKD.NET is continuing as shirt sleeve sponsor for the 2022/23 season.

Established in 1989, AKD offers commercial, industrial and residential electrical contractor services with experience and expertise – bringing knowledge and professionalism to every project, regardless of size or complexity.

AKD's reputation is the key to their success. The company's highly technical team enables them to provide a comprehensive electric installation service. This combination of ability and reliability has strengthened their standing in the industry among both new and established customers.

akd.net
0131 654 7080
edinburgh@akd.net

The club's long-standing partnership with Ideal Carpets is set to continue for another year, with Berwick's largest flooring specialist remaining as shorts sponsor for the 2022/23 campaign.

After being in business for more than 20 years, the Ideal team are committed to ensuring that your new floorcovering is installed to the highest standards with minimal disruption.

As members of the Associated Carpet Group, Ideal has the buying power and combined knowledge of more than 300 stores, giving customers confidence and reassurance, as well as some of the best prices around.



ideal-carpets.co.uk
01289 332299
ideal.carpets@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Guthrie Developments LTD will continue as back of shirt sponsor for the 2022/23 season.

It marks the fourth successive year that the Berwick-based company will be a shirt sponsor of the club. The business signed a two-year deal to be main shirt sponsor at the beginning of the 2019/20 season but very kindly moved their sponsorship to the back of the shirt for the 2020/21 season to allow the club to generate much-needed funds through its shirt sponsorship raffle.

Michael Guthrie Developments Ltd is based on the Ramparts Business Park in Berwick-upon-Tweed and is an experienced, well-known building company. Meanwhile, its sister company, Michael Guthrie Storage Containers, offers a trusted self-storage service in the town.



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ltd.uk

EXPECTATION, REALITY AND THE CUCKOO

by **RUARAIKH FERGUSON**

We are now at that time of year when fixtures are being studied and each new signing is being examined in a rose tinted manner. Results from last season are being extrapolated for positivity, and examples to justify optimism are summed up as fact. Such is the confidence with which all available evidence is viewed, that surely Berwick Rangers being in the Lowland League is nothing more than a minor blip, and this will be the season when wrongs are righted, and the Dream Team once again take their rightful place, in the top tier of Scottish Football.

Whilst July may be a time of happy expectation, the chances of that happy expectation remaining all the way through to reality in April can be difficult to sustain. It's like being in a library as you move from the fiction to non-fiction section. If we look at what will be required to start season 23/24 in Scottish League 2, the facts can be a little bit intimidating.

In the seven seasons that the pyramid system has operated in Scotland the team that has won the Lowland League has, on average, had to win 80% of their games. That's winning four out of five games all the way through the season.

Once we are over the minor hurdle of winning 80% of League games we can then look forward to the play offs. In the seven play-off seasons so far, the Lowland League Champions have won 3 of the 7 play off semi-finals, 43%, against their Highland League counterparts. Having said that of course, the teams from the Lowland League, that have got through to the play off final, have done quite well, with Edinburgh and Kelty both winning and East Kilbride the only team to lose at the

final hurdle. Of the seven play-off finals that have taken place, the current second division team has won 3, but they were all in the first 4 seasons, and the current second division team hasn't been able to win a play-off final since season 2017/18. Possible reasons for this are that the winner of the Lowland/Highland play-off have won over 80% of their games that season, including a play-off semi-final, whilst the second division team, Cowdenbeath last year, had only won 4 out of their 36 games, 11%, that season. Winning becomes a habit, but so does losing. If we also look at how well the teams that have won through the play offs have done its obvious that their success on the park is matched, or probably bettered, by similar ability in financial management, administration and marketing. The reality begins to dawn that to win the Lowland League and achieve promotion to Scottish League 2, will take far more effort and resource than was ever required just to remain and survive in Scottish Division 2. I would argue that winning the Lowland League, and then promotion to Division 2, would be the greatest, and most difficult, achievement in the club's history, greater than 1978/79 or 2007/08.

Much can happen in the natural turn of events that can help or hinder a club's ambitions during a season, referee's decisions, player injuries, postponed games, change of personnel. In most cases the amount of money available will determine how proactive, or reactive, a club can be to these events.

The Cuckoo in the nest, or Lowland League, is the introduction of premiership development teams. Development teams should only have been introduced to the Lowland League if it was going to benefit the existing members of

the Lowland League. As the only benefit that seems to be talked about is a financial benefit to the clubs, and as one would assume that all the clubs get an equitable financial benefit, then surely all clubs are back at the same relative financial position, that they were in prior to the introduction of development teams.

With the best will in the world the priorities of the development teams will be entirely removed from the priorities of the Lowland League clubs. The pursuit and execution of these differing priorities may well impact on the outcome of the League, the very presence of the development teams must affect the thinking and actions of the remaining clubs. It would also be ridiculous if the fourth-place team in the lowland League were to be promoted to the Scottish League division 2. Clubs and supporters of whichever team,

should surely not have been denied the chance to anticipate and enjoy a championship, being 2nd, 3rd or 4th just isn't the same. It is not the responsibility of Lowland League clubs to develop future talent in Scotland, at the expense of their league, and who is to say that the development of talent in the Lowland League isn't hampered by the introduction of premiership development teams.

At the time of writing the first games are only a few weeks away, so optimism remains high. Being a supporter of the Dream Team does tend to temper expectation, especially in the last few years. However, things did look to be improving last year and regardless of the final placings this coming season, my hope is that we are competitive throughout the season, looking to make progress in all areas on and off the field.

THE MORT REPORT

by **DAVID MORTON**

Vale of Leithen 0 Berwick Rangers 9
*Harris, Stewart, Allan (4),
 Baker (2) McGrath*

journey, including Borders celebrity Kelsae Kenny who was able to make it due to the Winter-break from the onion season.

After two successive defeats on the road, a long list of injuries, doubts about the game going ahead, our skipper suspended and Vale's improved form (an impressive draw last weekend away to East Kilbride), this rearranged game wasn't expected to be a walk in the park.

We opted to go with a surprisingly attacking 4-3-3 with our reshuffled pack; McNeil in goal, Scobbie and Ferguson at centre half, Williamson left back and Nelson right back. A midfield three of Barr, Taylor and Harris seemed a huge attacking gamble and up top Malcs went with Stewart, Allan and Baker.

After parking up and swimming through the large puddles, we were blown along the street to Victoria Park where the only shelter in the ground was a small Coo Shed, where standing was available and home and away supporters were separated by the tunnel. The view wasn't the best as there were only three stepped terraces that were so high to step up on, people were passing small children and pensioners up due to the lack of any steps. The Berwick fans slightly outnumbered the home fans in the "intimate" shelter. Around 50 hardy souls made the

Berwick started the game with a gusting wind behind them but opted to play the ball on the deck on a tricky surface and deservedly went in front with a Harris daisy-cutter that somehow made its way over the line as the baffled keeper woke up too late, after dreaming of pies, to stop it trickling in a full minute after it left Boozy's boot. Lewis Barr was having an outstanding half and was like a proverbial pig in shit with relentless work-rate and sliding tackles in the mud; this left Harris to



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orchestrate most of Berwick's best play from his unfamiliar central role, spraying the ball around like a piss wet Pirlo.

Considering the BBC never managed any first half updates, the chances of any Opta stats in Innerleithen were thinner than Heepsy's legs, but if there were, Berwick would easily have over 80% possession over the full 90 minutes. Two further first half goals came courtesy of Stewart and Allan, with the biggest worry for the second half being playing into the strong wind and the possibility of abandonment in the now monsoon conditions.

The second half turned into the Lewis Allan show, as the big striker added to his first half goal with three more when he added Berwick's fourth, fifth and sixth goal in under half an hour in a clinical display of finishing. He had been playing well with his old fashioned Dalglish style arse out hold up play, and his clever distribution was bringing others into the game. Equally he was deadly when given a glimpse of goal with all his shots at goal on the deck and seeming to find the bottom corner of the net.

After Allan bagged his fourth, the Berwick gaffer decided to hook him and Malcs was even seen to break into a half smile as he congratulated the departing Berwick striker.

Heeps, McGrath and Ward were all brought on and any thoughts we were going to see out the match were quickly dispelled, when Baker tucked away Berwick's seventh, sending the Vale match reporter into a frenzy as he struggled with the ever-growing list of scorers. McGrath, who hadn't been on the pitch long, pounced to take the tally to eight and Baker helped himself to his second and Berwick's ninth goal.

Any hopes of double figures were dashed when the ref decided to skip injury time in the worsening conditions, but this could easily have been 15 today with us hitting the bar twice, having a shot cleared off the line, and a few other close shaves. The main thing today was the three points in our hunt for fourth spot (after the Old Firm have their positions chalked-off) but the manner of the victory in terrible conditions on a ploughed field by the end was the icing in the cake.

The officials today were excellent, and credit to Vale who never resorted to brutality despite the relentless Northumbrian onslaught.

Man of the match-Lewis Allen. You can't score four goals away from home and not get it, but Lewis Barr and Alex Harris were outstanding today in midfield giving us the platform to build on.

REFEREES - AS FANS YOU MAY DETEST THEM OFFICIATING BERWICK RANGERS BUT MANY OF THEM HAVE GREAT MEMORIES OF VISITING SHIELDFIELD PARK

by **GEORGE MATHISON**

In March 2007 when at a formal footballing function I found myself having dinner with Eddie Thomson, an Edinburgh man and former top level referee. Not having met before it wasn't a surprise that our conversation quickly turned to football and when

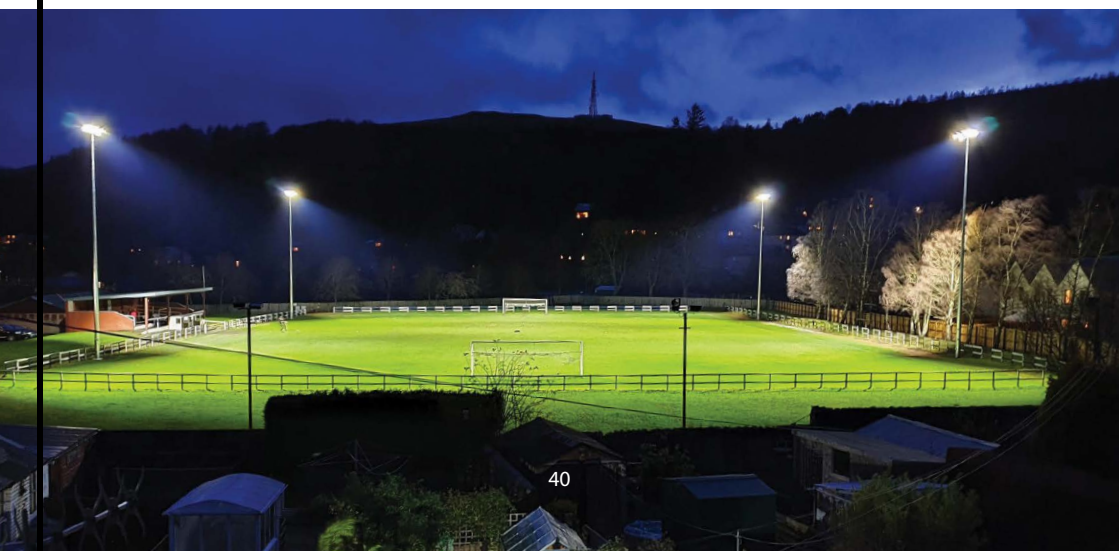


I answered "Berwick Rangers" to Eddie's first question his face simply lit up. "I absolutely loved going to Shielffield Park" he told me and quickly he was into describing in great detail his favourite ever match as a referee, which was on Saturday January 28th 1967 – Berwick Rangers 1:0 Rangers, the biggest shock result ever in British Football. Amongst other things I remember Eddie telling me that he knew John Greig, the Rangers captain, quite well and how Greig eventually stopped asking him how long to go and he just said "blow the whistle Eddie, we're never going to score today". Eddie had so many positive memories of visiting Shielffield Park and talked of his great pride at being invited as a guest speaker in March 1997 to a Berwick Rangers function to celebrate the great 1967 victory. At our dinner Eddie took a note of my address and days later I received from him photos from his refereeing days that I cherish to this day. Eddie (seen here refereeing in his prime) died in 2010 aged 82.

After this memorable encounter with Eddie and when in the company of referees since I've become much more aware of, and sensitive to, their feedback on 'my club' and often surprised by how many officials have offered up, without prompt, feedback on their positive experiences involving 'The Dream Team'. Thinking back on big games at Shielffield over the years motivated me to reach out to **Dougie McDonald, Mike Tumilty, Martin Clark, and Calum Murray** and seek their recollections of refereeing Berwick Rangers, so, and in the style of a virtual meeting, here's what they had to say about 'our club':

Q. By way of introduction tell us roughly when you were refereeing at the top level and how many times you think you have refereed Berwick Rangers?

Martin: "I joined the SFA Senior List in 1984 and it was in 2000 that I retired from refereeing on the pitch however I've continued to be involved with refereeing behind the scenes ever since. I reckon that I must have officiated at least 20 Berwick Rangers games across the 16 years and many more since as a Referee Observer at Shielffield".



Mike: "My time on the Senior List started in 1997 and for me also lasted 16 years with my final game being Berwick Rangers 4 Queens Park 1 on 13th April 2013, I'm pretty sure that my first ever game was also at Shielfield Park when Davie Somers was the referee and I ran the line on The Duckett side. I can't be sure how many times I refereed Berwick but one game I do look back on fondly was a pre-season friendly against my home town club Hartlepool who I've supported since a boy and this turned out to be the only time I ever refereed my team that was a very special day".

Calum: "Just like Mike I was promoted onto the SFA Senior List in 1997 and I retired from refereeing in 2015, I was also on the FIFA List for 5 years during that time. If you include youth games and friendlies I reckon that I've covered between 40 and 50 Berwick games, strangely almost all of them at Shielfield Park, rarely had them away from home. I do remember that my first game on the Senior List as a Category 3 Official was also at Shielfield where Berwick beat Dumbarton 5-3, Eric Martindale was the referee and Paul Forrester scored 4 goals that day if I recall correctly".

Dougie: "Just like Martin and Mike my career at this level also spanned 16 years but started slightly earlier than Mike, in 1994, I was on the FIFA List from 2000 until 2010 and I would say that I probably refereed Berwick 25 times over the years with around 15 of these games at Shielfield".

Q. In 3 short sentences or 3 words sum up what Berwick Rangers means to you?

Mike: "A family club, genuinely good people, always a good day out".

Dougie: "Tremendously Decent People"

Calum: "Guaranteed Warm Welcome"

Martin: "The friendliest people in football,

family club, well run".

Q. Which Berwick Rangers player do you recall as being the most likely to be cautioned?

Dougie: "Thinking back for me I can probably name three, Dave Murie who was always tough tackling but never a moaner, he took a hit and gave one in good spirit!. I also remember candidates being Gary Wood and Steven 'Spider' Ramsey, I know 'Spider' only played a handful games for Berwick but I knew him from his earlier days at Alloa and East Fife and like Gary was pretty robust in the tackle all three good guys though".

Calum: "Difficult one as although always competitive sides at Berwick, so I can't remember too many players that caused the officials problems. I do remember sending Marc Anthony off in a match versus Partick Thistle around 2001, Marc was a really good player but could spark up from time to time".

Mike: "Probably somebody like Mark Cowan was usually good for a caution, Lee Currie also sticks out as a tough tackling midfielder and then you had guys like Davie Watt and Stuart Callaghan who liked a good moan with Martin Neil being another one who sticks out"
Martin: "do you know I don't think that I ever red carded a Berwick player in my career. Berwick were always competitive but competed fairly, to put it another way I don't ever remember travelling to a game thinking that a particular Berwick player could cause me problems today".

Q. Best performance from a Berwick Rangers player in a game?

Dougie: "Given that the Rangers team in 2001 had cost something like £36m and included Caniggia, Klos, de Boer, Kanchelskis, Amoroso, Ferguson, McCann and Mols I remember being really impressed with how the Berwick central defenders nullified the Rangers £12m record signing Tore Andre



Flo in that goalless Scottish Cup game at Shielfield. I'm sure it was Gary Wood and Alan Neill that made Flo look very average, Gary particularly caught my eye that night, he was magnificent".

Mike: "Not sure there is one but what does stand out is Berwick Rangers at one point having a great bunch of really talented, committed and decent guys in the same team with Gary O'Connor, Ian Little, Gary Wood, Darren Smith, Robbie Horn and Grant McNicoll to name but a few".



Calum: "Two or three performances stick in my mind, I remember Berwick more than holding their own at Shielfield against Celtic in a Scottish Cup tie until a very late Scott Brown goal eased the nerves of the visitors and a similar team performance against a strong Rangers side in a really competitive league match, again at Shielfield in early 2013. Quickest goal I remember was Alex Burke against Raith Rovers in February 2003, think it we were only about 7 or 8 seconds into

the game but the best goal was a tremendous volley from Ian Little in Ian 'Pea' Oliver's testimonial against Falkirk - even John Hughes the Falkirk Manager stood to applaud the effort".

Martin: "Looking back I had the massive privilege of witnessing Darren Smith scoring that wonder goal at Hampden against Queens Park which must have been about 1999, what a goal and what a player. Darren was always so keen to win and I remember him often geeing up his team mates and demanding more, I just thought that he was a wee bit better than the rest".

Q. Which non-playing character(s) at Berwick Rangers do you remember?

Mike: "Dennis McCleary he was and probably still is Mr Berwick Rangers, P Oliver and Robert Johnson. I also remember Conrad Turner being very welcoming upstairs. Great characters".

Calum: "Without singling individuals out there was always a good atmosphere in and around the stadium and a genuinely warm welcome from Dennis and all the staff/Directors. I always popped upstairs for a cup of tea pre match so got to know everyone in and around the club over time. It was also a privilege to referee Ian Oliver's testimonial match and Ian was a real character who always would tell you if there was a Referee Observer in the stand before going out in the days when we weren't informed if our matches were being covered by one".

Dougie: "If I can only name 1 person it would have to be Dennis McCleary, totally professional and always a pleasure to work with, nothing was too much trouble for him, especially fond memories of the air balloon effort to get the Rangers cup tie on back in January 2001".

Martin: "Oh so many lovely people, Wendy and Robert Johnson were so accommodating,

Wendy used to look after us so well always checking that we had everything that we needed. Then there's Dennis McCleary, his attention to detail was exceptional and I'll never forget 'Pea' Oliver what a brilliant man, I was down at Shielfield last season, the first time in several years, and I know that this sounds strange but I somehow expected to see 'Pea' bobbing about in the tunnel area. Just as Calum mentioned I remember back in the day either 'Pea' or Robert would give you the heads up if a Referee Observer had arrived at the ground".

Q. Best Berwick Rangers manager to 'deal with'?

Dougie: "Loved dealing with Jimmy Crease, never a dull moment but a decent honest bloke".

Martin: "Difficult to pick one, Frank Connor could be loud but never an issue, Eric Tait was also quite vociferous, I also remember Jim Jeffries and Billy, Ralph and Jackie then Tam Hendrie and the last Berwick manager in my time would have been Paul Smith. All reasonable to deal with".

Mike: "They were all good guys but I have a lot of time for Paul Smith who was the manager in charge for most of my Berwick games in the early days".

Calum: "Like Mike my era coincided with Paul Smith's tenure at the club, Paul was and still is a really good coach who always put out competitive sides but was invariably very good to deal with".

Q. Finally best / worst Berwick Rangers memory?

Dougie: "Best memory is Berwick v Rangers 2001 Scottish Cup tie and replay and the worst memory is being a spectator at the game against Albion Rovers in April 2019 which looking back effectively saw the club relegated from the league. But I have loads of

other positive memories like Gary O'Connor's testimonial vs Celtic which was a real honour to do, a pre-season friendly with Newcastle which was fun and lastly I remember a BP Youth Cup tie when I sent off the Dundee centre half after about 5 minutes and his father going nuts as it was the kid's first game and they travelled as a family down from Dundee – apparently I ruined their day!".

Calum: "I've mentioned some of the Old Firm visits but I always fondly remember a number of pre-season friendlies against the likes of Hartlepool, Darlington, Sunderland, Hearts and Hibs. If I have to pick a worst memory I do remember some matches in atrocious weather conditions - one match in particular against Stenhousemuir when the rain was horizontal for the entire match and conditions freezing. The Stenhousemuir captain had to be substituted because he was showing the signs of hypothermia and had to be wrapped in blankets and treated for a while in the Changing Room until he recovered".

Mike: "Putting the Hartlepool pre-season game to one side, I'll keep this one short as my best and worst memory come from the same game which was Berwick Rangers vs Rangers



on 26th August 2012 when I wrongly chalked off a very late goal from Chris Townsley, a rubbish decision which cost Berwick a win at a glorious Shielfield in front of 4,000 fans as Rangers started life in Division 3".

Martin: "Best memory has to be Darren Smith's goal against Queens Park, it was better than Archie Gemmill's World Cup effort against Holland in 1978 and I honestly don't have a worst memory. Finally let me tell you about a catch-up I had with a few retired

referees just before COVID in The Caley Picture House pub (Edinburgh). That night we got onto talking about favourite trips when refereeing and I have to tell you that absolutely everyone there had Berwick Rangers on top of their list and I'm not just saying this for effect. Great people, great club".

A massive thanks to Mike, Dougie, Martin and Calum (top referees and people) for their contributions which in my experience are so consistent with lots of other match official's thoughts on Berwick Rangers and visiting Shielfield Park. Referees are human beings.

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PAUL HAMPSHIRE MEMORIAL CUP

by DAVID LETHAM

Dunbar United and Berwick Rangers contested the Paul Hampshire Memorial Cup at New Countess Park. The match was played on July 5, with a 7.30pm kick-off, and was to benefit Mr Hampshire's family. The game finished 1-1 on the night. Dunbar taking the lead and Berwick equalising. The match went to penalties where Berwick lost 4-1.

He made 65 appearances for the Shielfield Park side over two seasons and would later sign for East Fife and then his hometown side Dunbar United.

The Seaside posted a message on social media following their former player's death.

It read: "Dunbar born and bred, Paul was an incredibly talented player, with his left foot described as a 'wand' by those who played with him. Paul is a friend to many of us at the club and we extend our full support, sympathies, and condolences to Paul's family."

Mr Hampshire, 40, died after being struck by a car on the A1 in the early hours of the morning on March 13. The former professional footballer began his career with Raith Rovers before going on to play for Berwick.



NEW KITS...MARMITE IT WOULD SEEM

by DAVID LETHAM

The new kits for the coming season were launched and provoked debate. The new home kit is a throwback to a previous kit from the mid to late 90's and it seems you either love the home kit or hate it! A few comments from social media paint the picture....

"Be funny world if we all agreed. Personally, but what do I know! I loved this strip the last time and do again."

"Might be in the minority, but I think the home kit looks class"

"Like away one, not keen on home one though."

"Nope sorry, don't like either, past seasons was tremendous and these are awful, sorry."

"Absolutely horrible home strip!!"

"The yellow and red away kit is probably the best away we had. The new home is a nod to the avec kit we had. Excellent design"

"Each to their own, I love them both."





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