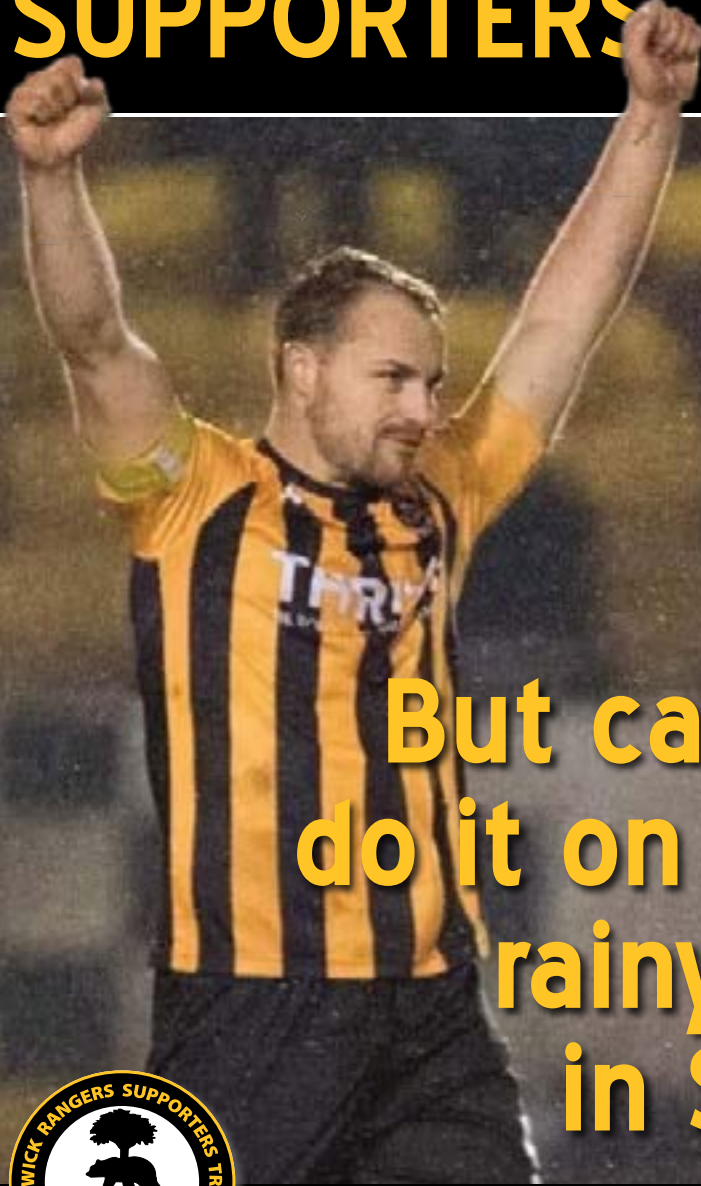


BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS TRUST



But can they
do it on a cold
rainy night
in Stoke?



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New Decade | New Goals | New Berwick Rangers

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

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Something else that jumped out at me from the 2003 Newsletter, was that that first public meeting The Trust held was attended by 20% of the average home gate. I say this as The Trust has an Extraordinary General Meeting due very soon, to formally adopt our annual accounts. If we don't have 20 members present, we're not quorate, can't operate and therefore may have to fold. Please look out for invites across social media in the next week while with the accounts and Zoom link. Your attendance would be appreciated.

The Trust continue to support The Football Club through using your money to best effect, with our total investment over the years being over £110,000. We remain dedicated to the cause on your behalf.

In other news, although you voted for it, and The Supporters Club had confirmed that they were happy to discuss it after the stadium lease transfer was complete, The Supporters Club have confirmed that they no longer wish to consider an amalgamation of the two supporter bodies. I had hoped that in due course we could have created a stronger and more unified 'voice of the fan' from the terraces and in the Boardroom. I can only apologise for setting this hare running.

Talking of Board matters, I continue to represent Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust as an Associate Director on The Club Board and continue to see progress in how our club is run; from small tactical things like changing our stadium insurer (which has enabled the stadium damage to be dealt with promptly and smoothly under the guiding hand of Club Vice Chairman Craig Forsyth) to more strategic change, like BRFC now leasing the stadium direct from The Council; opening the door to moving future management and development of Shielfield Park away from the football club and into a Stadium Trust. More of that inside the magazine! As we go to print, I'm also extremely pleased to see other new faces on The Club Board, which augers well for The Club and we fans.

In other good news, the Trust Magazine has a new Editor! My sincere thanks to David Letham for taking the reins and providing more much-needed oomph, garnering some 18 or so articles in this 'bumper' edition which I hope you enjoy reading. All fantastic articles and my heart-felt thanks to all our contributors. I'd also like to thank Gordon Dickson, David Letham, Ron Kirk, Joe Crawford and Jeffrey Roy for your input and support during the board zoom meetings. Also, my sincere and heart-felt thanks to Isla Barber for her hard work as Trust Secretary. You'll be impossible to replace Isla.

It would also be most remiss of me not to say a huge thanks to Brian, Craig, Dave, Nathan, Gary, and Dougie; The BRFC Club board whom I'm privileged to work with; along with a man I'm proud to call a friend, Dennis McCleary.

In closing, as I write, my thoughts and all of us in The Trust are with Brian, our Football Club Chairman, who is once again undergoing surgery on his acute back condition. Get well soon Brian.

Andrew Allan
Chairman, Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

FROM THE CHAIRMAN...



This is the first Trust Magazine since the passing of my dear friend and Trust Board member David Spence. Losing Dave has shocked us all; we miss him dearly and the thoughts of all of us at The Trust are with Dave's friends

and family, and our former Trust Secretary Isla Barber in particular.

Sadly, The Trust and our community have also lost two more good friends and supporters of The Club in the last year, with our thoughts being with the friends and families of Trust member John Hush, who was of course the

Club's honorary President. Also lost this year was Walter Deicher, yet another stalwart member, fan and character lost to The Club and the town.

So many people have supported The Trust since its inception in 2003, I was humbled to see how many were 'founder members' then, and still are (or were until recently) when I came across the first Trust Newsletter.

In better news, I'd like to welcome two new members to The Trust Board. Jenna Shields, who works promoting, implementing and co-ordinating tourism activities in our region and Graeme Tait, who is a member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces within The Royal Regiment of Scotland. A very warm welcome to The Trust Board to both Jenna and Graeme.

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

'IF ONLY WE'D HAD THEM AT THEIR PEAK...MY ALTERNATIVE DREAM TEAM'

by **GEORGE MATHIESON**

With the 50th anniversary of my first Berwick Rangers game and first season ticket purchase (35p) just past and inspired by Dennis McCleary's 'My all time Dream Team' article in a recent Supporters Trust magazine I decided I'd put some thought into selecting a 'Dream Team' from former players or management imagining that they were playing for Berwick Rangers at the peak of their careers

To avoid too much of a cross-over with my all time 'Dream Team' my selection criteria was as follows:

- Berwick Rangers player or member of the management team since 1971
- Required to have been involved in a first team competitive match - therefore eliminating the likes of Paul Gascoigne, Ian Black Jnr, Darren Fletcher and Michael Bridges
- Made less than 50 league appearances for Berwick Rangers – which counts out so many all-time favourites including Warren Hawke (55 appearances) and Jim Jeffries (60 appearances) who both just miss out
- Weren't at their peak when on Berwick's books which led me to leave out the likes of Andy Irvine and Robbie McCrorie (who is one of the best keepers that I've seen at Shielfield) as I believe they have still to peak and will go on to have great careers

Here's 'if only we'd had them at their peak... my alternative Dream Team' whilst only amassing a total of 173 league appearances for Berwick Rangers between them I'm sure

that this team would have given us something special to cheer about.

(club when at career peak, age when joined Berwick Rangers)

Goalkeeper

Henry Smith Hearts & Scotland (aged 46)

Whilst I can only think of two poorer goalkeepers to pull on the No 1. Jersey for Berwick Rangers (Ernie McGarr & Mark Lunn), Henry was indisputably an excellent goalkeeper who served Hearts fantastically well for 15 years (1981-1996) and had his career not coincided with those of Andy Goram and Jim Leighton he would surely have won more than his 3 caps for Scotland. His appearance at Shielfield on 14th September 2002 put him into the record books as Berwick's oldest player at 46 years 6 months but the 3:4 reverse to Stranraer that day proved to be his last ever senior game.



Right Back

John Anderson Newcastle United & Republic of Ireland (aged 32)

Rated as one of Newcastle United's best value for money post-war signings when he joined from Preston North End, John served The Magpies for 10 years making 337 league appearances



and he was part of the highly entertaining promotion winning team in season 1983-84 when he featured in 41 of the 42 league games starring alongside Kevin Keegan, Peter Bearsdley, Chris Waddle and Terry McDermott. John was capped by Republic of Ireland on 16 occasions and part of their squad at the 1988 Euro Championship Finals.

Central Defence

John Hughes Celtic (aged 23)

A man who needs little introduction to Berwick Rangers fans, John served the club tremendously well as a striker scoring 14 goals in his 41 league games before converting to a central defender after he transferred from Swansea City to Falkirk in 1990. Many believe that John's playing career peaked when he joined Celtic in 1995 and he has, of course, gone on to have a successful career in the dugout since he hung up his boots in 2005.



Central Defence

John Clark Dundee United (aged 32)

No soft centre in this defence with John Clark joining John Hughes as the central pairing both having previously played together at Falkirk in 1994/95, interestingly both Johns were born within a fortnight of each other in September 1964. John served Jim McLean's successful Dundee United team for 13 years and whilst not renowned as a goal scorer (19 goals in 242 league games) he did famously score 4 goals in the 1987 UEFA Cup campaign including one against Barcelona in the Camp Nou and another in the Final against IFK Goteborg.



Left Back

Kenny Wharton Newcastle United (aged 29)

A versatile footballer who could also play in midfield, Kenny joined Berwick Rangers in 1989 after his top flight career had been prematurely curtailed following a cartilage injury when he was only 28. Similar to fellow full back John Anderson, Kenny was rewarded for his 10 years service to Newcastle United (290 league appearances) with a Testimonial match which attracted a crowd of over 20,000. Kenny and John played together for The Magpies for over 7 seasons in the 1980s.



Midfield

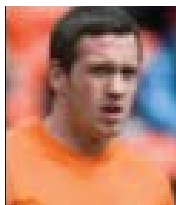
Paul Smith Dunfermline Athletic (aged 34)

Paul had notched up more than 500 league appearances when he signed for Berwick as a player in the summer of 1997 and only appeared in the black and gold on 3 occasions before he was appointed into the 'hot seat' at Shielfield with John Clark alongside him as his Assistant Manager. Paul's career really took off at Raith Rovers and in season 1983-84 he scored an amazing 34 goals with strike partner Keith Wright netting 25, the following season Paul scored another 27 with Keith hitting 28. Paul's goal rate may have dropped as his career progressed but he was a much admired midfielder who is probably most synonymous with Dunfermline Athletic for whom he made 204 league appearance and scored 27 goals.



Midfield**Danny Swanson Dundee United (aged 18)**

Danny and John Hughes (both Leithers) are the only players in my 17 man squad that left Berwick before their careers peaked. Danny made his first start for Berwick on 1st October 2005 in a 1:1 draw with Montrose at Shielfield and went on to appear in 44 league games for the clubs. In October 2007 Danny was signed for Dundee United and moved to Tannadice in January 2008 where under the guidance of Craig Levein he continued to develop and improve to the point that in October 2011 he was drafted into the Scotland squad for the Euro 2012 Qualifiers against Liechtenstein and Spain, sadly injury prevented Danny from featuring in these games. Undoubtedly one of the most talented, exciting and entertaining players to have pulled on a Berwick Rangers strip this century.

**Midfield****Colin Cameron Wolverhampton Wanderers & Scotland (aged 41)**

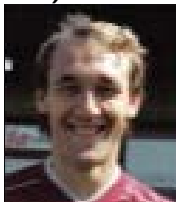
The most capped player in this squad Colin represented Scotland on 28 occasions between 1999 and 2004 and he is also the player that has attracted the highest transfer fee (£1.75m Hearts to Wolves in 2001). As a player manager Colin turned out 29 times in the league for Berwick and his goal against East Stirlingshire in August 2014 placed him in the record books as the oldest scorer in the fourth tier of Scottish football, just weeks shy of his 42nd birthday Colin took the record from Robert Prytz of Hamilton Academicals and a former Swedish internationalist (56 caps).

**Midfield****Bobby Smith Leicester City (aged 37)**

A very competent midfielder who was also very comfortable in the left back slot Bobby played 152 league games for Hibernian before former Berwick Rangers Manager Jock Wallace took him south to Leicester City in 1978 where he featured for over 8 years (3 years in the top tier of English football) several as the captain. Having returned north to Hibernian in 1986 Bobby also served Dunfermline Athletic and Partick Thistle before joining Berwick in 1990 which proved to be his last senior club. Sadly Bobby passed away in 2010 aged only 56.

**Forward****Sandy Clark Hearts (aged 48)**

Born and raised in Airdrie Sandy turned down the opportunity to sign for Leeds United as a schoolboy and instead joined his local club where he made a huge impression scoring over 100 goals in 267 appearances and was awarded The 1982 Scottish PFA Players Player of the Year Award. After a season with West Ham United Sandy joined Rangers where he spent a further 2 seasons before transferring to Hearts in 1984 where he starred until 1989 and formed a deadly striking partnership with John Robertson. After managing Partick Thistle, Hearts, Hamilton Academicals and St Johnstone Sandy took up the reigns at Shielfield Park in October 2004, his last managerial appointment.

**Forward****Gerry Britton Partick Thistle (aged 35)**

A product of the Celtic Bhoys Club Gerry moved onto Partick Thistle in 1992 having made only 2 league appearances for The

Hoops this despite scoring an incredible 122 goals in 196 appearances for Celtic Reserves. Gerry was a highly rated striker who made a total of 156 league appearances for The Jags scoring 36 goals in his 2 spells at the Firhill club who he later went onto manage. Gerry only made 1 appearance for soon to be relegated Berwick Rangers in 2005, being drafted in by then manager Sandy Clark.

**SUBSTITUTES****Goalkeeper****Dave Larter Montrose (aged 37)**

Berwick have had almost 80 goalkeepers on their books since 1971 (and more if you count the ex-keepers in the dugout) and whilst I did consider the likes of John Martin, Paul Mathers, Jim McQueen, Ian McCaldon, Mike McDonald, Marc McCallum and even the former Scottish Internationalist Ernie McGarr (strangely all have surnames starting with M) I plumped for Dave who was a most magnificent goalkeeper and servant to Montrose for 12 years (1987-1999) where he made 432 appearances and to this day is still a fans favourite at Links Park.

**Defender****John Brownlie Hibernian & Scotland (aged 35)**

A very dependable full back John started his career at Pumpherson Juniors then in 1969 joined Hibernian where he played for 9 years and appeared in 3 cup finals for the Easter Road club. John was in the Hibernian



team that famously slaughtered Hearts 7:0 at Tynecastle on New Years Day 1973 however a few days later he sustained a horrific leg break against East Fife which caused him to miss over 50 games for a Hibernian team that many thought could win the league in that 1972-73 season. John appeared in 211 league games for The Hibeas before playing the remainder of his career in the North East of England where he represented Newcastle United, Middlesbrough, Hartlepool United, Blyth Spartans and finally Berwick Rangers. John also won 7 caps for Scotland whilst playing for Hibernian.

Defender**Jackie McNamara Hibernian (aged 37)**

John 'Jackie' McNamara was an assured ball playing defender who made his senior first team debut for Celtic on October 3rd 1973 in a 3-0 home European Cup victory over TPS Turku. During his 3 year spell Jackie had made a total of 43 appearances for The Bhoys before moving to Hibernian in September 1976 in a move which saw Pat Stanton switch to Parkhead. Initially unpopular with the Easter Road faithful (due to them losing Pat Stanton as part of his transfer) Jackie's fine performances soon had the crowd on his side and by the time he moved onto Morton in 1985 (after 236 league appearances) he had earned the status of club legend. Sadly, Jackie had to retire at just 32 after four cartilage operations forced him to call time early on his career he did however take up the role of Assistant Manager when his great friend Ralph Callachan became Berwick Rangers Manager in August 1990.



Defender**Willie Garner Aberdeen (aged 35)**

Stirling born Willie joined Aberdeen in 1975 and was well established in that successful Dons team when in 1978 he broke his leg when playing in Bulgaria which opened the door to a young Alex McLeish. Willie made a



total of 113 league games for Aberdeen before switching to his boyhood heroes Celtic where things didn't go as hoped, indeed on his debut at home to St Mirren in a League Cup game Willie scored 2 own goals in a 3:1 defeat. In 1982 Willie became the youngest Manager in Britain, aged only 27, when he took over at Alloa Athletic then in 1984 when Archie Knox moved to become Dundee Manager Willie took up Alex Ferguson's offer to become Aberdeen's Assistant Manager and during his 2 years in the role the Dons continued to collect much silverware and dominate the Scottish game.

Midfield**Ian Ross Liverpool (aged 49)**

Known back in the day as an utility player Ian played in a variety of midfield or defensive roles for Liverpool during his time at the club between 1966 – 1972. Ian then transferred to third division Aston Villa who



he captained to the 3rd Division League Championship then famously lifted the League Club for The Villians in 1975 after defeating Norwich City in the Wembley final. Ian turned to management in later years and successfully guided Valur to the Icelandic championship in 1985 and 1987 however met with very little success when Manager of Berwick Rangers for 7 months (19 games) in 1996. Ian died in February 2019 aged 72.

Forward**Kevin Thomas Hearts (aged 26)**

Kevin began his career with Hearts and represented Scotland U21's on 9 occasions, unfortunately Kevin failed to build on an exciting early breakthrough to the Hearts first team where he had initially been seen



as the new John Robertson and one of the most exciting young strikers to break through for many years. A torn cruciate ligament in a game against Dundee United meant that 19 year old Kevin was side lined for around 2 years and sadly was never able to fulfil his immense early potential. By the time injury forced Kevin to retire at the age of 27 he had only played 100 senior league appearances with 5 of these being for Berwick Rangers in late 2001 where he scored 1 goal (in a 2:1 victory over Greenock Morton).



CHRISTMAS CHEER

by GORDON BAXTER

It was a very cold, wet, and blowy day that welcomed Gala Fairydean to Shielfield. I was stopping off on the way home to Fife from my festive travels down south, to catch the game with David Letham. David had travelled down from Fife on the day to stay for the week and catch the New Year's Day game against Bonnyrigg Rose (cancelled).

The pitch was looking slightly the worse for wear after the recent storms, and to cap it all off, one of the linesmen took ill just before kick-off. This meant the start was delayed by about 15 minutes, with former director (and qualified referee) George Mathison stepping up to heroically run the line.

It wasn't a game for the purists, with the ball spending too much time in the air, and after a fairly bright start, we soon found ourselves two down. The keeper misjudged the first one, and it went straight in from a corner, and our defence collectively went AWOL, failing to block the second after a bit of a stramash near the goal line. Too many passes were going astray, and both sides huffed and puffed a bit without creating many chances before we managed to pull one back with a great header just before half time.

I don't know what was in the half-time tea, but we came out much more fired up, and were soon 3-2 up (including a penalty). The quality of football was better than the first half, but there still wasn't much to cheer about, and several folk in the stand stood up and were moving around and stamping their feet to keep warm. Both sides had chances, but we



managed to put some of ours away and run out 4-2 winners. The game looked lost in the first half but a valiant comeback secured the valuable 3 points.

We have the makings of a half-decent team. We've been scoring goals, and even when we concede early on we're finding a way back into the game. If we can tighten up a bit at the back, and sharpen up the passing and movement, there's no reason why we shouldn't start to climb the table.

A TALE OF TWO KEEPERS

A fascinating story of back stories around one of the most famous score-lines in football history by STEPHEN GRAHAM, Trust member.

Most people are aware of the events that happened on 12 September 1885 when Arbroath defeated Bon Accord 36-0 in a Scottish Cup 1st Round tie. That world record scoreline still stands today. What people are maybe not aware of, is that on the same day and in the same competition and only 18 miles away, Dundee Harp defeated Aberdeen Rovers 35-0.

Arbroath's goalkeeper that infamous day, Jim Milne Snr did not actually touch the ball the entire game and spent some of the match sheltering from the rain under a spectator's umbrella. The score at half-time was 15-0 with another 21 goals coming in the second half past the unfortunate Bon Accord goalkeeper, Andrew Lornie. John 'Jocky' Petrie, an 18 year old striker, scored a world record 13 goals in the game. The Scottish Athletic Journal reported, "the leather was landed between the posts 41 times, but five of the times were disallowed. Here and there, enthusiasts would be seen scoring sheet and pencil in hand, taking note of the goals as one would score runs at a cricket match."

Petrie's 13 goal haul has never been beaten, but has been equalled. In a World Cup qualifier in 2001, Australian Archie Thompson scored 13 of his country's goals in a 31-0 rout against American Samoa.

With Andrew Lornie conceding 36 goals, perhaps Aberdeen Rovers' goalkeeper William Wilson, in conceding 35 goals somehow slipped under the radar. How different that could and possibly should have been! The referee that day had noted 37 goals for Dundee Harp, but Dundee Harp's Secretary showed him a list of the goalscorers which added up to 35. The referee adjusted his notebook and recorded 35-0 as the final score, oblivious to events 18 miles away.

Earlier I stated that Arbroath's 36-0 win was a world record. Perhaps I should mention a game which took place in Madagascar in 2002. The top four teams in the National



League took part in a round-robin competition (each team plays the other 3) to award the National title. When refereeing decisions went against SO l'Emyrne in one of the games, eliminating them from the title race, the players took things into their own hands by scoring 149 own goals! The final score was AS Adama 149 SO l'Emyrne 0. It was reported later that spectators descended on the ticket booth demanding a refund. The SO l'Emyrne coach was banned for four years, and four of his players were suspended to the end of the season. As the game was "thrown", Arbroath's winning score still stands for a legitimate game.

Although Arbroath and Dundee Harp's huge victories took place in 1885, the really incredible part of the story took place in 1952. It was in this year that a wedding took place in Aberdeen. Sidney Lornie, grandson of Bon Accord goalkeeper Andrew Lornie, married Olive Lindsay Wilson, granddaughter of Aberdeen Rovers goalkeeper William Wilson. Between the newly weds their grandfathers had conceded 71 goals on the same day some 67 years earlier. One wonders if Olive was a keeper.

TRUST BOARD SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

by DAVID LETHAM

We have had 3 additions to the board since the last magazine, we are still actively seeking new members for our Board. Joining the Trust board is an opportunity to enhance your life* while helping to shape and influence the football club and with the personal satisfaction of knowing that you are making a difference. Being a member of the Trust Board brings you deeper into the Berwick Rangers community. It's an opportunity to learn about the business of the football club and getting to know and understand the kinds of people who work with the club. The Trust have donated over £100,000 to The Football Club and this is an opportunity to influence how that investment is made; be that supporting the signing of players, stadium work and a wide range of support. We also promote and help great causes in the community.

The Trust board meets once a month via zoom and has regular email correspondence. Distance is no object to being a board member as we would continue to conduct our meetings online to make them more accessible and easier to arrange. We currently have board members in Fife and Renfrewshire as well as the local Berwick area.

Do you think you have something to offer? opinions and ideas? Then please get in touch by emailing trust@berwickrangers.org The Trust would be delighted to hear from you.

**Life enhancement will vary from person to person. The Trust cannot fully guarantee any life enhancement.*



I AM FINALLY HOME

JEFFREY ROY – Board Member from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Have you ever heard a Manager speak positively about a season in which his or her club finished winless? If not, then you are going to hear about it now, because that was how my season finished when I coached a Senior Women's team. My team was the 'B' team (like the 'beloved' Celtic and Rangers 'B' teams in our league!). My club's 'A' team was in the same league as my team. While my team did not win a match, the season was memorable for three reasons: First, and most important to me, was the improvement on defense compared to the previous season. That team conceded over 100 goals, whereas my team conceded only about 50 goals. Second, in the final game of the season we held the league leading team to a 1-1 draw, despite what seemed like an excessively long Time Added period at the end of the second half! Third, in a match against the team with the best player in the league, even though we lost by several goals we held her off of the scoresheet. This seemed to affect her Manager (who was also her partner), because after the match he did not shake our hands!

As your Board Member from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, I want to say a few words about professional football in my city, which unfortunately has to be very few. The first time Halifax had a professional football club was in 1991. There was a team called the Nova Scotia Clippers. They played in the now defunct Canadian Soccer League. The Head Coach and General Manager was Gordon Hill, who played for Manchester United from 1975-78. The Clippers' record finished at 7 wins, 7 draws, and 14 losses. They finished in 6th position then lost in the Quarter Finals of the league playoffs. Playing at Beazley Field in Dartmouth (across the harbor from Halifax)

they averaged about 1500 fans per home match. One player of note was Mick Lyons, who played for Everton from 1971-82.

Twenty-seven years later in 2018, saw the foundation of the Halifax Wanderers Football Club. Their home ground is the Wanderers Grounds, just a few metres from the start of Halifax's Downtown area. It had been a simple pitch with little taking place there for many years previous. Temporary seating was installed along one side and at one end. Large shipping containers were put up along the other side and at the other end. These function as luxury suites. In July 2018 they played their first match, a friendly against Fortuna Dusseldorf's Under-21 team. I attended but left before the start of the Penalty Kick session because to me that is no way to decide a match! For their home fixtures they average about 6000 fans per match. There are plans to build a permanent facility at their ground.

My dislike of Penalty Kicks to decide a match leads nicely to introduce an issue that I have come to feel very strongly and passionately about. That is, the system of promotion and relegation from the Highland and Lowland Leagues. Its current format is too strict and seems to discourage teams looking towards playing at a higher level. Here is my suggestion for change: All matches will be decided by the normal flow of play. Penalty Kicks can go away and never come back! First, the bottom club in League Two is automatically relegated. Second, there will be a 2-game series between the champions of the Highland and Lowland Leagues. The winner of that series gets automatically promoted to League Two. Third, the loser of that match will play a

2-game series against the club that finished second from bottom in League Two. The winner of that series will be in League Two for the upcoming season; the loser will be in either the Highland or Lowland league for the upcoming season. Your thoughts?

My thoughts felt more together with yours when seeing pictures of the damage caused, including to what happened at Shielfields, after Hurricane Anwen affected your area. It evoked memories of a similarly rare event which significantly impacted Halifax and other parts of Nova Scotia. It was early on Monday, September 29, 2003. Hurricane Juan, at least as a Category 2 Hurricane, passed through us with a top wind speed only about 5mph less than the top speed of Anwen. The neighbourhood where I lived was without power for 3 days. The most prominent effect here were many uprooted trees. Sadly there was an unfortunate death. A paramedic, who was in his ambulance close to the Wanderers Grounds, was killed when a tree uprooted by the hurricane fell onto his ambulance.

On to a more positive topic, what I would like to accomplish as a member of the Board of the Berwick Rangers Trust. First, I am committing to a membership of presence. I plan to attend all meetings, assuming they continue to be held completely or in part on Zoom. I want you to feel that I am doing my best to represent you and your concerns. As time goes on I hope to meet as many of you as possible. Second, I want to be a member who is and remains involved and not be just a name on a membership list. This can take on several forms such as the inclusion of an 'International Supporters' section on the Trust website which I would regularly contribute to; a semi-regular column in your local newspaper or a spot on your local radio station. I believe I can make a significant contribution that other Trusts could follow. Specifically, to inspire those who are not open to consider having at least one International member serve on their Board. Third, I hope to remain a positive

presence and on whom you will always be proud of. Fourth, I will promote the Trust and Club as best I can in this part of the world and beyond. This will include working towards at least an acknowledged link between us and the Halifax Wanderers.

I want to encourage those of you who are members to continue to support us and the club. As I write, the health restrictions we hope were lessening are in fact once again becoming more strict, and there seems a wave of fear that is trying to cover everyone. May we never let circumstances lead us to abandon our commitment to each other and to the club. We deserve to return to League Two and then to higher leagues. What an example we can be to others who live in Berwick-upon-Tweed and farther away when they see how devoted we are to supporting our club and seeing it restored to a place of prominence in Scottish football and more importantly in the community.

My final words are an invitation to those who are not yet part of our family. We are in a time of significant challenge. It seems we are being 'pushed' to isolate ourselves and have as little as possible to do with others. So many people may feel alone and discouraged. May you consider joining with us and growing us into an even stronger family. In these times, we need family. We need each other. May our fears transform into hope. May our sense of isolation transform into a desire to gather as a Trust and as Club Supporters. May our reluctance to interact transform into a desire to see our beloved Rangers succeed, not only in its leagues but in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

Thank you for welcoming me into your family.

COVID, INJURIES AND DRINKING TEA

by **LEWIS BARR**

Hello everyone and first of all I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year and all the best for the year ahead. The last two years have pretty much merged into one and I am not really sure if its Tuesday or Sunday. The only help I get with this is by checking the sell by date on the smokey bacon pate in the fridge. I feel like I should be honest and say that there were some mornings over the festive period when smokey bacon pate on toast was the breakfast of choice. I won't even mention the turkey and parsnip sandwiches.

It's been another tough year for many. Fortunately, this season and the latter part of 2021, we were able to attend Football and other sporting events. It's been great having the supporters back in the grounds. A Berwick crowd may be significantly less in terms of numbers than Anfield, but the importance of the crowd to the game and to the players is the same. It just adds a different dynamic to football and gives it life. Do we all remember watching football when the games were on behind closed doors? Terrible. The only thing worse than the delayed crowd noises was the fact that Steve McManaman's commentary was even more isolated and clear. The great Jock Stein gave us a great quote- Football, without fans, is nothing. So simple but a quote that goes from strength to strength through the years as football changes and faces different challenges. The so called big six and their attempted takeover of football and their plan to break up the top leagues united fans across the country and once again proved Jock Stein to be right with his judgement. Football fans and football showed that the power still lies with us when it comes to the game we all love.

This season started off great for myself after

only playing thirty minutes of football last season due to my hip injury and lockdowns. I managed to get myself ready just in time for pre-season. Which was great, as pre-season is such an important time for a football player at every level. Pre-season give you a foundation and allows you to navigate through all the challenges a season will bring you. It was a brutally hard pre-season with the new manager. Without a doubt one of the toughest I have had. However, I must have been one of the few people who enjoyed it. Well, you can never actually enjoy the running whilst you're doing it as you are battling to catch a breath and to keep any stomach contents from coming up and flying out onto the grass. I did enjoy that feeling of getting up to peak fitness. After missing well over a year of football this is what I had wanted for so long. To be back in the mix and to be feeling fit again. Training has always been just as important to my wellbeing as games. Structure and exercise is a massive part of my life and I was so glad to have it back.

Unfortunately, towards the end of pre-season I caught Covid and would miss a game through that. I also missed the last game of pre-season through work which was really disappointing and is something I try and avoid as much as I can. It probably wasn't a great start to the season with having a new manager, but I was happy to try and work my way from the bench and back into the team. I had to wait a few weeks, but I eventually did that and it was such a great feeling to be back. My dad was happier than me that I was back, I think. Coming down to Berwick is a big part of his life and he has enjoyed getting to know everyone at Berwick. I am sure some of you have met my dad. His support means

a lot to me and I know he can't wait to be back down supporting Berwick. There were some good times during this period. I really enjoyed Broomhill away. Not just because of my screamer of a goal- which was absolutely meant (please don't go back and watch the highlights), it was just a really good away win. Another thing I have missed.

As the season got under way, I was feeling really good and was enjoying each game despite the inconsistent results, as I was just enjoying my football (excuse the overused, annoying footballer phrase). Gretna in the Scottish cup was upon us and with the game being on a Monday, we were in for training on the Saturday morning before. As training was coming to a close, I stepped up to take my last shot and my last kick of training that morning, and I dislocated my kneecap and fractured my shin. I am not even sure how that can

happen from just taking a shot, but apparently, it can!

I never enjoy watching games when I am injured. I find it tough not being involved. It certainly helps if there are other injured boys with you. We have often gone to the nearest café for coffee and cake wherever we have been playing. You get too familiar with coffee and cake if you are not playing. It's a dangerous slippery slope which will often lead you to harder stuff, like steak and scotch pies. A special mention to the ladies in the kitchen who put on such a great day for the hospitality guests. I have constantly pestered them over the last three months for cups of tea and to fill up my flask. The food they put on for the boys after the games is always first class and is even more impressive considering they have just spent the day putting on



hospitality which I know can be pretty hectic.

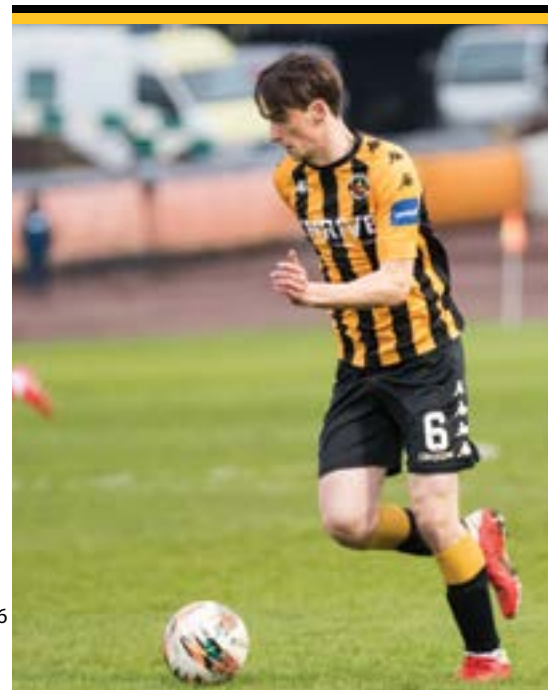
As I finish writing this article, I am currently isolating for a second time with Covid- fortunately with no symptoms. It hasn't been too bad, as the darts have been on. If you explained the game of darts to an alien, darts would sound pretty boring. For some reason, it's the one of the most enthralling things you can watch. Pure drama. As I edit this article, Peter Wright has just won his second world championship. An incredible achievement and I was in awe of his composure under pressure in front of a pretty hostile crowd! It's safe to say that sport in Scotland is on the up. We rule the darts, our football team don't crush our dreams as often as before and we seem to have finally discovered Cricket. Isolating can be tough, but I always try and put things into perspective. I enjoy being out and about and keeping busy, but life can be very rushed, and you don't often get the chance to sit back and take stock of everything. After my isolation is over, I won't get many other opportunities to spend so much time at home with my girlfriend Jade and Ozzy the cat. Ozzy is over the moon as he can show us how he lives during the day. He isolates from 6am to around 6pm and does nothing all day and sleep. What a life. Spending time at home is something I love, and isolation has allowed us to do just that. When else do you get the chance to sit with your partner, eat chocolate and watch TV with lunch together? If you listen to the radio, watch the news, or scroll through social media, the world can be a pretty dark and depressive place. I try and find joy in the simple things and this period of isolation has only fuelled that even more. I am thankful that I can sit at home with Jade and Ozzy and we can just do nothing together. Another one of my heroes, John Lennon, once said- time you enjoy wasting is not wasted. Cheers, John, you have allowed me to be lazy whenever I want, and no one can ever question it. A true hero.

I would like to end this article by paying tribute to Graham Ambrose and Rory Ambrose. I am

sure you know Graham, as he will be found on match days working hard in the club shop. Make sure to pop in and say hello to him. I'm not sure if he will negotiate or haggle on the prices but you can try your best!. His son, Rory, attends every home again and is also hoping to one day play for Berwick Rangers himself. I am in no doubt that he will achieve this. Rory and Graham have had a pretty tough year but their support and dedication to Berwick Rangers has never wavered. They have supported the boys every week and also myself through my injuries. They are a credit to themselves and their family. We have become great friends and I always look forward to catching up with them at the games.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone all the best for the year ahead and I hope everyone achieves what they set out to do at the start. My new year's resolution never changes. I would like to see my beloved Hibs win the Scottish Cup.

All the best
Lewy



'BERWICK RANGERS 2007'

- AN EVENING WITH THE CHAMPIONS

Friday 18th March 2022

*Edited by David Letham original Douglas Stenhouse
- From the Grove to the Harrow (Facebook)*

Berwick Rangers legends Gary O'Connor and Grant McNicoll are organising what promises to be an absolutely fantastic night for the fans at The Black & Gold Social Club on Friday 18th March 2022 when they are re-uniting the second ever and sadly last (for now) Berwick Rangers squad to win a League Championship.

With the majority of the 2007 squad already accepted the invite from Gary & Grant the evening will be split between 'fancam' video clips from 7 matches in the Division 3 Championship run-in each with interviews with key players and management. It will be followed by the complete showing of Berwick

Rangers 1:0 Arbroath league decider including build-up to that match and all the celebrations that followed. Fans will be able to mingle and chat to ex-players and staff while it plays on the big screen.

Tickets (Outlets TBA) for this one-off event are priced at £15 including a buffet. To help with the food and venue cost, they are also looking for any willing sponsors for the evening who will get full coverage in the publicity and the evening souvenir fanzine. Any surplus funds will be donated The Berwick Rangers Community Foundation and The Dream Team playing budget for the 2022-23 season.



EAST MEETS WEST

by **JOE CRAWFORD**

Let me introduce myself. My name is Joe Crawford and I am the current Membership Secretary for The Supporters Trust. Based on the outskirts of Paisley, I am a football man through and through. How did I become a Berwick Rangers supporter you make ask, despite living on the other side of the country? It was really down to family holidays to Berwick. Previously, my holidays growing up as a child, involved caravan holidays in and around Berwick. From here, we would generally get along to a pre-season game as a family. I always had an interest in the town which has stayed with me since those holidays as a child. As I got a bit older, I got more interested in the history of the town, which really is truly fascinating. When I left University a few years ago and started working, I really got into Youth Hostelling and stays at Berwick Youth Hostel were commonplace. I also have been following speedway for a number of years, with has involved the occasional visit to Shielfield to watch the Berwick Bandits. From someone based in the West of Scotland, I think the Berwick has a good vibe and plenty to offer, particularly from a tourist and sporting point of view.

It was really the second half of the 2018/2019 season that I started following the club on a regular basis. I also assisted Ross Aitchison with the pitch on a couple of occasions. After the Cove Rangers play-off, I really felt for the club. I joined both the Supporters Club and Trust. The 2019/2020 season did bring a lot of change to the club in more ways than one and to the Scottish Football. There was no longer an English team in the Scottish Professional Football League. The Lowland League needs no introduction to me, as I had really followed the league since it is inception back in the 2013/2014 season. I cannot believe it is 9 years since its foundation. I think a pyramid

system has been needed in Scottish football for many years. It has also given some non-league clubs in Scotland a bit of an encouragement to become an SFA Member by improving their overall infrastructure, as many non-league grounds lack basic toilet facilities and floodlights. From this these clubs can access SFA funds and can enter the Scottish Cup every year, with some non-league clubs really benefitting from this.

I have followed the league since its inception and used to go along to the odd East Kilbride game in the first few seasons of the leagues formation. The league has definitely got a stronger and professional as the years have gone by from what I have witnessed. A lot of teams have come and gone from the League in that time, such as fellow border sides Hawick Royal Albert (who beat Berwick 3-2 back in the 2016-2017 Scottish Cup season) and Selkirk, who unfortunately went bust in 2018. I think further change to the Lowland League will occur, particularly as the former West Region Junior sides have joined the Pyramid system. A lot of these teams have support and finances that top part-time teams in SPFL would envy.

The season 2019/2020 I was a fairly regular attendee at SLFL games, with grounds I was introduced to including the infamous "cage", home of Caledonian Braves located within Strathclyde Country Park. That season was Caledonian Braves first at Alliance Park; a name chosen by their virtual fans to reflect the history between Scotland and France. Prior to that the club ground-shared with Annan Athletic at Galabank; it was at a Berwick match here that I was first introduced to Dave Letham and Andrew Allan in person.

I attended my first Berwick Rangers Supporters

Trust meeting on the 22nd February 2020 prior to the Community Day game v. Edinburgh University. At this game I assisted Gordon Dickson, and the sadly deceased Dave Spence, collecting donations from supporters; not long after that, we were unfortunately in lockdown. After a little of persuasion, I was asked to join the Supporters Trust Board and, this time last time year, I took on the Membership Secretary role. It helped myself get back into football, which has been a big part of my life. We have had a small increase in Membership number in the last year which has been primarily down to better results. One thing I think will stand the club in good stead for the future, it just how professional the club is run and the friendly ethos.

It has been good to see the club improving results wise and financially this season. Going forward from a supporters point of view, I would like to more a link up and partnership with fellow Border sides. From my perspective, it has been a shame for the likes of Eyemouth United drop out of the East of Scotland League, particularly with their illustrious history in the East of Scotland League . I have friends at Hawick Royal Albert United who have stated that they struggle to compete financially with the former East Region Junior sides who, in the last few years, joined the East of Scotland League. These teams in central belt towns tend to have large backing from local business

and, for a number of clubs, thriving Social Clubs, with the profits going into the planning budget as well as logistically being closer to Edinburgh for wider player pool.

Hawick Royal Albert United, after many seasons training and fielding Edinburgh based players, merged with successful local Border Amateur Side Hawick United and have adapted; a bit like Tweedmouth Rangers, and now field local players giving local players a chance to compete at East of Scotland level. It also makes the club more attractive to watch with such local interest meaning a larger community based fan-base.

Additionally, from my point of view, it would be good to see an Under 20's up and running again competing in the Lowland League Under 20s. From my own point of view, in Berwick and some of the other Border Towns such as Hawick, there are youths playing in the Border Amateur League at 16 and 17. I just feel this is too young and by having an Under 20s team, it would help bridge the gap. By having an Under 20s, it would hopefully increase the number of local players coming through and hopefully earning a place in the first team and growing locally focused home support.

Anyway till, the next issue, bye for now.



FOODBANK DONATION

by DAVID LETHAM

Berwick Rangers hosted a foodbank collection this year in the run-up to Christmas in a joint effort with the Supporters Trust, Supporters Club and St Andrews Berwick Rangers Supporters. The 3 supporters' groups pledged £250 each to the Berwick community Trust for the foodbank this festive period.

In addition to this there was a collection at Shielfield on the 11th of December at the home game against Broomfield. A bucket collection was in operation at the game for donations. A cold rainy day the bucket was manned by David Letham, Trust board member and founder of St Andrews Berwick Rangers Supporters. The bucket collection

on the day netted £110 and several bags of food for the foodbank. The officials on the day kindly donated bags of food for the cause. The total raised was £950 for the foodbank, a great effort.

A campaign just before Christmas last year organised by St Andrews Berwick Rangers Supporters raised £650. With a matched donation of the first £250 from St Andrews Berwick Rangers supporters that saw the final total of £900 split between the foodbank and Northern Soul Kitchen who work closely with the foodbank in Berwick.



BERWICK RANGERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

by DAVID LETHAM

The community foundation wildcats program have had over 100 girls getting the opportunity to enjoy playing the "Beautiful Game" since it began in April 2021.

Thanks go out to all the coaches Tracy, Richard, Dawn, Adam, Gary and Kev who have all helped provide such a positive environment for the girls to have fun and develop their footballing skills.

A special thanks also go out to Rosie and Steven Ingram from Berwick Rangers Juniors who come over every week to support us.

On a cold December night there were over 30+ Wildcats/Wildercats braving the cold at training. The enthusiasm was, as always, first class and it didn't take them long to warm up over the 3 sessions laid on. There was also great support from families who bravely stood in the cold, supporting, and watching their girls develop their abilities.

Boot Room

There has also been the launch of the boot room with Berwick Rangers Juniors. A great initiative. It can be found on Facebook under Berwick Rangers Juniors Boot Room.

This is how the Boot Room works...

- The boot room is for the local community and for none profit.
- The boot room is free to exchange any good condition outgrown pairs no rips tears or damage with good remaining tread.
- If you have none to exchange but looking for a pair...no problem...We ask for a small

charity donation, this will be made to a local charity voted for by our committee at the club.



- Boots to donate, just bag them up drop us a message and we can direct you to drop off points.
- Discretion will be used at all times, drop us a message if you see some boots you are interested in , we only have what's been donated and will work on a first come bases.
- Please don't always expect an instant response, we will try to respond as soon as possible.



Club 1881 is an exclusive membership, paid by monthly subscription, that allows supporters to assist the club in transforming its cashflow throughout a year, helping to safeguard the future of the club and provide a solid foundation to build upon for success.

For just £18.81 per month, you can become part of an exclusive community of Dream Team supporters who are helping to make their club a more sustainable entity. Club 1881 members are rewarded for their invaluable

support with an abundance of exclusive content and benefits.

Joining Club 1881 is simple as setting up a Direct Debit, and thanks to the easy, trustworthy tool we're using to help you do just that, it's never been easier to do. Simply input your details into the form and your payment of £18.81 will be taken on the final working day of each calendar month.

<https://berwickrangers.com/club1881>



WIN £1,000 EVERY MONTH

How would you like to be in with the chance of winning £1,000 every month? If that sounds appealing, then you need to join Berwick Rangers Supporters Club's Monthly Draw.

For just £5 per month, you'll go into a draw with hundreds of other Berwick Rangers FC fans to win the monthly jackpot.

In addition to the £1,000 prize, the Supporters Club also donates £250 each month to a chosen local charity or organisation - with the rest of the profits from the draw going to the Football Club.

Sign up by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera or by typing the following into your web browser: cutt.ly/sc-monthly-draw



BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS CLUB
SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB AND YOUR COMMUNITY



ST ANDREWS BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS

by DAVID LETHAM

Well football was back on the cards for this season, a welcome return. It was difficult getting back into the swing of things, a 2hour drive that was a regular trip seemed to take forever. The most I had driven was in and out to work a couple of days a week. A round trip of 12 miles to work and back meant the round trip of 220 miles to Shielfield took some getting used too. But it soon became second nature and my father enjoyed getting out to the games.

I'll touch on what we have done this season, not much since the last article, but we have sponsored games and organised the foodbank collection at the football ground. As much as football is back Covid still looms large and has had an impact on activities and support again this season.

3 cup games that are notable for me this season that I will briefly ramble on about are:

- West Calder (one of my dad's old stomping grounds back in the day).
- Broxburn Athletic. Broxburn is where my dad played many moons ago and lost his kneecap playing.
- Hill of Beath Hawthorn. (The game that never was).

West Calder (away). The East of Scotland cup. 11/09/21.

An away trip for this one. Back to one of my dad's old stomping grounds but the club had moved to a new ground since he was last there. This one was a bit of a comical affair. There were no linesmen it seemed. The guy who had been directing the traffic into the

carpark was then drafted on to the line at my side, and I think our assistant manger was on the line at the other...A decent little ground and a sunny day saw us run out 3-2 winners, but the game wasn't without its controversial moments and the overall feeling of just how far Berwick had sunk. The standard of official and



Photo of linesman enjoying his diet coke break

initial lack of linesmen very much highlighted this. It had the feeling of a Sunday league game kickabout in the park. This feeling was compounded by the linesman at my side watching very little of the game and talking to his friends in the "crowd" for most of it.

But as was said on the day this was the level, we as a club are now at, Promotion out of the Lowland league looking like the difficult task that some fans don't seem to yet recognise. A few fans still didn't know that it's only the league winners who go into the playoffs, and even then, it's not a straight playoff for league 2. It's a playoff against the Highland league winners to then playoff against the bottom of league 2. A point I think is still worth making to highlight just how tough it is to get back.

Broxburn Athletic (home). South region challenge cup. 16/10/21.

We sponsored this game and organised a meal at the club for 10 guests beforehand. I managed to wolf down my dessert before nipping off to man the turnstile. My dad very



much enjoyed his meal, He gets fed well at home but the delight in his eyes in the picture when eating his soup is something to behold... As I said my dad played for Broxburn many moons ago and a wayward tackle saw him lose his kneecap. A sore one for sure. He was excited to see this game but disappointed in the result. 1-1 at fulltime and extra time didn't separate the teams. A loss on penalties too, some truly awful ones separated the teams at the end of the day. 3-4. I was particularly disappointed in this result. I had been hoping for a bit of a cup run, albeit a smaller cup but it's still a cup and a bit of potential silverware" for the cabinet. The potential for a few more home games lost in the process too.

Hill of Beath Hawthorn (away). The East of Scotland cup. 27/11/21.

Well, this one was a notable one. It was a cold day and the storm during the week had caused havoc with the roads, tress down across most of the country it seemed. By the time Saturday came most of the trees had been cleared so passage seemed safe again. It's fairly local to me, about 45 minutes' drive. I arrived at the ground having had a small

detour due to a minor road being closed. My dad wasn't with me, too cold my mum said...

I arrived found a parking space and paid my money, bought my halftime draw tickets and watched some of the players warming up. A Decent looking little ground, toilets a bit suspect but I believe there were more modern ones in the facility at the end of the ground. A few directors and more players arrived. They had been delayed by a few closed roads too. The game was then called off! It was about 20 minutes before kick-off. There was a section of pitch that was frozen and unplayable. I went on to the pitch and had a look myself. I couldn't believe it, the directors, players, and fans were not best pleased to say the least. Sadly, it is another reflection of how far we have fallen and the level at which we currently reside. The pitch should have been inspected long before and a decision made.

Overall, I would say the team and club are on the up. Despite the somewhat negative slant to this article the team have been playing reasonably well of late, difficult times



Photo of the interesting toilet

with injuries and covid. We seem to finally be scoring goals and winning games even if the concentration and passing is sometimes lacking. It's difficult to properly judge with such stop start seasons, but what manager is doing seems to be working and that's a good thing.

STORMY TIMES - NOT JUST THE USUAL FOOTBALL STUFF...

by DAVID LETHAM

The storm that ravaged the country for a day in November left its mark on Shielfield park. Fortunately, nobody was hurt but plenty of significant damage was caused. The roof was torn off the turnstiles meaning for the time being entry is via the vehicle access gate. A significant piece of damage is the collapse of the wall at the rear of the seated

stand. Now boarded up and made secure it will take time to repair safely. The storm caused some damage to the playing surface as wood and other debris whipped across the surface tearing up parts of the grass. Ross the groundsman worked his magic to get the most sever of it repaired.



OVER THE WALL

by MICHAEL SMYTH

A typically excellent article by former Trust Chairman Michael Smyth giving fantastic insight of the progress made by our neighbours and friends at Tweedmouth Rangers. Photographs courtesy of Garry Menzies from Haddington Athletic.

There was a frustrating end to the first half of the season for Berwick Rangers' immediate neighbours just over the wall, Tweedmouth Rangers. Seven days ahead of Christmas, visitors Leith Athletic had already arrived for a 1:30 p.m. kick off (no lights on Old Shielfield) and late morning/early afternoon sunshine had finally got rid of the overnight frost. Or so everyone thought-except the referee. After a brief pitch 'inspection', to the astonishment of all present, he decreed that the ground was still 'frozen'. Game off.



It meant Tweedmouth had not played for four weeks, first due to an 'idle' Saturday with no fixture scheduled. Then serious damage caused by Storm Arwen (including to that aforementioned wall) led to a postponement versus Craigroyston followed by a waterlogged surface the following Saturday meaning no game against Kirkcaldy and Dysart, the East of Scotland fixture card having thrown up three scheduled home games in a row.

It left Tweedmouth entering 2022 with four

wins from sixteen matches in Conference 'A' and occupying 13th place in the table of fifteen clubs. But for some other frustrating occurrences that placing could have been higher. Three of the victories came against former Fife Junior clubs, beginning with a 2-1 win at St Andrews United after six opening defeats.

The biggest win was 4-1 at home to Thornton Hibs. Rangers had posted a warning a few weeks earlier, also on Old Shielfield, when they stormed back from 4-1 down with just nine minutes remaining of normal time to take Hibs to extra time at 4-all. Thornton eventually made it to the next round of the Alex Jack Cup by the odd goal in eleven.

Good as it was, the Hibs' win was not the most impressive result. That came at home to the then high flying Kennoway Star Hearts who had beaten Tweedmouth 5-1 on their own Treaton Park pitch in the early August sunshine. Even so, the hosts applauded their visitors' efforts to keep playing football even when the chips were down. Fitting then that a superb defence splitting move should have secured the winning goal in a 2-1 Tweedmouth success in the return fixture.

Hearts' bear the names of two different places a few miles apart, Kennoway and Star, the latter so tiny that it is possibly the smallest settlement to host a team playing within Scottish football's 'pyramid'.

Tweedmouth's other three points were gained from a 4-3 home win over Ormiston, Rangers 3-0 up at one stage.

The Berwick club had the honour of kicking off the touring Groundhoppers' series of Saturday matches at Dalkeith at the start of



October. They were 2-1 up at half time against the hosts but a sending off immediately after the turnaround precipitated a collapse and a heavy defeat, all the more embarrassing as over 300 spectators were present. As bad was the 7-4 loss in Edinburgh to bottom of the table Craigroyston, again the frustration being that, as at Dalkeith Thistle, this was definitely a winnable fixture.

Self respect was restored with an encouraging performance at home to South Challenge Cup holders Dunipace which laid the platform for the following week's win over KSH.

There is one other victory to report, Tweedmouth seeing off Edinburgh South 2-1 in Berwick in the first round of the King Cup and now awaiting a visit to Bo'ness Athletic at the next stage.

In another knock out competition, the EoS Qualifying Cup, Lowland League Gala Fairydean Rovers visited Old Shielfield and ran up double figures. The picture was brighter the next time Rangers faced higher status opposition in EoSL Premier Division Dunbar United on a Tuesday night at New Countess Park. Spectators could have been excused for disbelieving this was only a friendly. Dunbar played at a faster pace than usually seen in the Conferences with Tweedmouth generally matching them in this respect even when on the back foot for most of the second half. Only a goal from the last kick of the game stretched United's margin to 3-1.





This match suggested that the foundations are there. Manager Neil Oliver certainly has his young, predominantly local team playing some attractive football. However, an experienced man, preferably with some height, would help to bolster the side at the back whilst up front, a consistent, reliable goal scorer would be a big asset as second half proceedings in the last match played in 2021 again highlighted. Already three goals down at half time at home to Arniston Rangers, Tweedmouth had enough possession and pressure to turn things around after the break but just could not find the net.

Geography dictates that recruiting is not a simple matter. At the time of the above match, Arniston were in the middle of a signing spree, picking up players from other clubs in the

Lothians as well as Edinburgh-based Declan Knox who had been released by Tweedmouth. Ormiston were able to take three players at once on loan from the well stocked ranks of East Lothian neighbours and Conference 'A' leaders Haddington Athletic one of whom was particularly influential in their almost successful fightback when they came south. As it was, defender Evan Smith returned to Rangers from Coldstream with outfield player Miguel Freire and keeper Danny Fletcher, separately, going in the other direction.

With Covid still looming large, it remains to be seen if the EoSL season will be completed and what effect any curtailment might have on the League's plan to replace the Conferences with a proper divisional structure in 2022-23.

PROGRAMME MEMORIES

by NEIL WITHINGTON

I have just finished writing my articles for the match programme against Civil Service Strollers, which means that there are just two more Lowland League programmes left to put together this season, and it is only the middle of January! Another example of the strange times that we live in, and a far cry from when I first visited Shielfield Park in the late 1970s. Then, matches were often shoe-horned into the last month of the season, usually because of postponements over the winter. Player burnout was not even considered.



So, why Berwick Rangers? It is a question that I am asked quite a lot, which is fair enough considering that I live 180 miles away from the club, halfway between Preston and Blackpool, and have no connection with the area whatsoever. I spent many happy family holidays in North Northumberland and the Scottish Borders as a child. Bamburgh, Kelso, Coldstream, Duns and Berwick were all popular destinations, so I knew where the town was. At the same time, I also developed an interest in football programmes and would be given a couple of pounds to order some from a duplicated list supplied by Steve Earle Football Programmes. To my horror, the 'big' clubs started to double the price of their programmes from 5p to 10p and, with no increase in my budget, I cast my net a little further afield. I ordered a Berwick Rangers issue and a Brechin City one to test the water. Brechin City was a massive disappointment

– a single sheet of thin pink paper folded in half with only the teams and a few notes. In contrast, the Berwick issue was on glossy paper and had a two-colour front. I liked something about it, and when I discovered that the following season's programme had increased to 12 pages, I decided to start following the club's fortunes.

There was no internet then, and you were lucky if you could find the results from Scottish Division 2 in the newspapers in my area, let alone anything else. The best way to keep in touch with what was happening at Shielfield Park was by having a programme subscription, and Dennis started posting the programmes in the mid-1970s. That collection has proved invaluable to me since I became a regular contributor to the programme in 2010 and has been used to illustrate numerous articles.



I have especially enjoyed writing the pieces about the careers of former Berwick players, even if it can be frustrating at times. The research can involve sifting through that collection of old programmes for information on certain players, but most of it is internet-based. I use the British Newspaper Archive to access the Berwick Advertiser and Newcastle Journal, while Alan Bell's superb club history website (www.berwickrangersfc.co.uk) provides a player's appearances and goals. Even with all that help, I sometimes run into a dead end when I cannot find a good enough photograph of a player. If anyone has a decent image

of either Eric Addison or Gary Morgan, please let me know (neilwithington@blueyonder.co.uk). Addison came to Berwick Rangers in 1957 and was initially described in the press as being 'weak in the air' and 'not being capable of 90 minutes. However, he became a prolific goal scorer for us, including netting six times in an 8-2 win over Dundee United when he ran their defence (which included future Liverpool and Scotland star Ron Yeats) ragged. Morgan signed for Berwick Rangers in 1983 from Consett, where he was rated as the best left-back in the Northern League and he later moved to Darlington under Cyril Knowles.

Of the players who have appeared in these articles, three of my favourites have been David Atkinson, George Hope and Peter Davidson.

Atkinson was player/manager of Berwick in the 1920s and won the East of Scotland League title plus three cup competitions in 1927/28. He then went on to become Provost of Hawick and was given the Freedom of Hawick for his services to the town.

From a well-known family of Scremerston footballers, Hope was Berwick pivot and captain in the 1930s before the Second World War intervened. As a Northumberland Fusilier, he was captured by the Germans in 1940 and spent five years in one of their infamous



Stalag prisoner of war camps before returning to captain Berwick Rangers to the East of Scotland league title in 1946/47.



Davidson was a pacey winger who wreaked havoc in opposing defences as Berwick Rangers won the 1978/79 Second Division title. For a game against Alloa Athletic that season he had to battle through blizzards and snowdrifts on his way to Shielfield but still managed to score the winner with seven minutes of the game to go.

I still have quite a list to go at for the future and, by the time I have worked my way through it, I will have almost a hundred profiles of former Berwick stars and am then hoping to turn them into a book.

RAMBLING ON...

by **STUART BELL**

I remember reading of an intrepid adventurer, deep in the Australian rainforest, who came across an exotic species of bird that hadn't been seen since 1936 and was presumed extinct. So, to prove its existence...he shot it. The height of idiocy, surely? But the elapsed time between writing these articles and the magazine being published, is an opportunity for the forces that control the world to make me look even more stupid than him. Perhaps my old Economics teacher was right when I scraped a pass at O-level in 1971. I approached him in the school corridor hoping for a pat on the back, or at least a congratulatory nod of the head, but with a loud guffaw he said "Good grief Bell, miracles never cease!" as he laughed his incredulous way into the staff room. He always thought I was a waste of space (though to be fair, he was as mad as a cake himself so the feeling was mutual).

As soon as I write something about our excellent loanees, some of them bugger off to pastures new. As soon as I slag off the League's fixture computer for leaving us with an empty March, we have 3 call-offs in succession. And as soon as I question our failing attack and start assembling stats to prove that we are a bit lightweight up top, we start smacking in the goals. So I've deleted whole paragraphs, amended others, cobbled together a few different snippets that aren't immediately time expired and with a very little confidence I've pressed 'save' and despatched it to the Trust.

One thing that has to stay in though when we are discussing Bonkers of Berwick, is being sent off for a dangerous lunge in the general direction of an opponent's shin pads, then having a good long think about it and concluding that it is a shrewd move to

go barging through the referee's door, arms waving wildly, gob out of control and hoping he might say "Fair enough mate. I'll rip this report up, donate my fee to Amnesty International, then run myself through with a sabre". For goodness sake STM, you are a great player to watch with more commitment and ability than the entire relegation team put together, but the next time you fancy a chinwag with the ref, please run your grand plans past Dennis McLeary first.

As for the fixtures, at Christmas there were still 5 free Saturdays before the end of the season on 9th April, yet we'd already played 6 night matches in the League and several diddy cup ties on Saturdays, as well as the odd blank weekend in case the Vale of Leithen keeper got an international call-up. It looked really lop-sided (partly because we started in July, mind), but hey they must have consulted Chris Witty, because we are going to need those blank weekends to cope with Covid call-offs.

Personally, I'm pleased that the Bonnyrigg game on New Year's Day got called off. (I should quickly add that that doesn't mean I'm happy that any of the players and their families caught Covid). Having already missed the Boxing Day game because Northern Trains went into 'Can't be arsed' mode on Teesside, they went full-on 'Levelling-up? What's that, mate?' and cancelled all our local trains on New Year's Day too. If it had happened in Sussex, it would have been on the news. So I'd have missed the League Leaders coming here to face a Berwick team that had hit a bit of form for a change. I look forward to the rearranged date, which I guess will trigger some massive engineering works near Morpeth.

I was grateful as ever for our excellent Twitter feed as I followed the Gala game on my phone (though I did hear Stuart Malcolm's half-time verbals because I had my kitchen window open). Talking of Social Media, our page on Pie and Bovril stutters on, though contributions are as rare as a competent ref. Recently though, a small surge of interest has followed the emergence of someone calling himself 'Lowland Enthusiast', who claims to know a thing or two about our Manager, our Directors and our financial spreadsheets. When challenged, he backs off, which suggests that he may just be taking bollocks, and I have a theory that he could be linked to an old Tweet regarding someone being invited to take his face for a shite. He combines witless drivel with advanced arrogance, is thicker than mince and appears to get a steamy thrill whenever Berwick Rangers have an iffy result. Sadly for him, the team's reaction to Stuart Malcolm's half-time blast will have ruined his Boxing Day tug.

Back on the pitch, It has taken rather longer than I'd hoped for the team to become genuinely competitive. We haven't really looked like beating the top 6 teams – a trait that has been going on since relegation – and we have struggled to put the ball in the onion bag. Vale of Leithen excepted, even when we have managed a bit of dominance we struggled to score goals (EDIT – 10 in the last 3 games - see what I mean?) and I suspect that frustration might have had a bit to do with Ryan Finnie's meltdown and subsequent expulsion to the vacuous hovel that is Ainslie Park. I missed the game when he got his half-time hook and managerial bollocking, but I do remember an earlier game where he stood for a while, double-teapot and shaking his head, clearly thinking he was better than the crap that was masquerading as an attack further up the pitch. Fair enough, he was right, but we need senior pro's like him to encourage the youngsters unless they want to experience the 2nd half from the front seat of their car.

At the back, I don't reckon I'm alone in thinking

that we have had better keepers than McNeil and Swinton over the years. There have been some excellent saves, but they wouldn't dominate the box if we were allowed to play both of them. They may well be around at this level for years to come, but I'm unconvinced that they are good enough for League football. The jury is still out on Ali Adams too after marking his return with a flap and a cheery wave as Gala's early corner sailed straight in to give them a 1 goal lead.

The big success story for me though, is the defence. Since Finnie sulked out of the door, Ferguson and Pyper have been immense. Now, supplemented by a fitter Scobbie and the superb loan signing of Travis (EDIT – there we go again), the defence – with Jack Cook hovering on the bench - is something we can finally rely on after years of it having more holes than a Swiss cheese.

In midfield, we have been unlucky with injuries, but it does mean that we concede too much possession. Taylor-Mackenzie's partially self-induced long absence, together with Sinclair's struggle to have a sustained run of games and Lewy Barr being as robust as a chocolate flake, means that we have relied on another super loan signing. Aidan Denholm – 18 for goodness sake – has been a Godsend, ably assisted by the ever willing Grant Nelson. However, until we see Sinclair, STM and Barr together we won't know whether an experienced ball playing addition is needed to be really competitive. My gut feeling is that it is.

Finally, up front, there are some signs that progress is also being made, Stewart has been the surprise plus, Taylor is many supporters POTY and Lewis Allan always puts in an energetic and skilful shift. The latter though is unlikely to be that 25-goal a season striker that we need – more Joelinton than Joe Jordan. I'm equally not persuaded about Harris, though I'm more convinced about him than I am about Baker and Smith.

So, some key signings are required to make a title push next season. And we are assured that the manager has the contacts, and hopefully the budget to bring them in. As an 1881 club member, I recently got a letter from our Chair Brian Porteous. (Hopefully it, or something similar will be released to all fans before this article goes to print). It was a hugely upbeat, realistic and heart-warming message about where we have been and how

we are slowly putting the building blocks in place to make us genuinely competitive and to ultimately get us back where we belong.

Yeah. It is slow progress, but cast your mind back to the shambles we witnessed when Cove Athletic came to town and you will see just how far we have already come. Northern Trains permitting, I'll be happy to continue making the journey.



CHARITY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS



BERWICK CANCER CARS

The Berwick & District Cancer Support Group was founded in 1992 and our main service is to provide free transport to any cancer sufferer to all major hospitals in our area. The group is entirely made up of volunteers and we rely on the help and support of everyone in the community. Get in touch with us to find out more and help us by supporting the many events and activities that the community hold in aid of our charity.

<https://berwickcancersupport.co.uk>



SWAN AND WILDLIFE TRUST

The historic Borders town of Berwick-upon-Tweed is home to Britain's second largest mute swan moulting colony. The Berwick Swan and Wildlife Trust was formed in 1992, following a major pollution incident in the River Tweed estuary, to provide support for the local swan herd as well as other wildlife in the area.

<http://www.swan-trust.org>



B.A.R.K.

B.A.R.K. short for Berwick Animal Rescue Kennels, is a registered charity (Number 1083038 in England and Wales and SC038235 in Scotland) and is active and growing. B.A.R.K provides temporary refuge for unwanted and stray domestic animals. Wherever possible it is our objective to re-home them. Our area of operation is north and south of the Scottish Border, although we will take animals in from all areas, in reality this generally means within about 60 miles of the kennels, although we have had animals in from as far North as Aberdeen and as far South as London.

<https://b-a-r-k.co.uk>



NORTHERN SOUL KITCHEN

We are a collaborative community space in which we take unsold, yet edible food from supermarkets, local shops and households to create affordable and balanced meals for all.

Essentially, everything we do is to tackle the following issues:

- food waste in the local area
- food poverty and instability
- social isolation and integration
- a lack of understanding about food and nutrition

<https://www.northernsoulkitchen.co.uk>



BERWICK COMMUNITY TRUST

Berwick Community Trust is a charity working to develop and regenerate Berwick upon Tweed for the good of all residents. They also runs the Berwick foodbank.

Berwick Community Trust was established in 2004 with the mission to secure a prosperous and vibrant Berwick-upon-Tweed.

<https://berwicktrust.org.uk>



BERWICK RANGERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation – a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) – is set to assist and organise a range of local, community projects that vary from club to club, including the provision of sports coaching, use of facilities, education and assisting those in need.

<https://berwickrangers.com/berwick-rangers-community-foundation-launched/>



THE NORTHSTAR CENTRE

The Northstar Centre is a Northumberland County Council managed day service for adults with learning disabilities in Berwick-upon-Tweed and the surrounding area. We offer a wide range of activities designed specifically around our clients' developmental and individual care needs.

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthstarCentre>



SPITTAL IMPROVEMENT TRUST

The Spittal Improvement Trust (SIT) was formed in 1998 out of concerns expressed by the local community with regard to the continuing decline in Spittal. SIT's aims are to carry out project works in an effort to halt the further decline in our local facilities, improve the environment we live in and to raise community spirit by holding events.

<http://spittalgreat.co.uk>



NORTHERN SPIRIT BERWICK

Northern Spirit Berwick are a Peer Support Group for people suffering Mental Health conditions like depression and anxiety issues. We would like to welcome new members to our group, whatever form of Mental Health problems you have, any age from 18+, feel free to come along at any time. Our group currently meet on Wednesdays from 10am until 4pm, taking part in various activities, from quizzes to walks, crafts to card games.

<http://northernspiritberwick.co.uk>



IAN RUNCIMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Ian is a photographer for the football club and we often use his images in the Trust magazine. We have used some iconic shots of his on the front covers.

<https://www.facebook.com/Ian-Runciman-Photography-481717625569496/>



St Andrews Berwick Rangers Supporters
www.berwickranger.co.uk

ST ANDREWS BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS

A group of Berwick Rangers supporters with a connection to St Andrews University. The group are a combination of students and staff and a few family members thrown into the mix. Most members are still in Fife, but a few are further afield in such exotic location as Belfast, Newcastle and Lanarkshire. They are player kit sponsors, have an advertising board in the ground and hold thousands of shares in the club between them. Find out more here:

<https://www.berwickranger.com/who-are-we-and-contact-info.html>

www.berwickranger.co.uk



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