



What is a Supporters Trust?

A Supporters Trust is a democratic, not for profit organisation of supporters who are committed to:

- Giving supporters a greater say in the decisions made by the Football Club;
- Strengthening the links between Berwick Rangers and the local community.

What are the aims of the Supporters Trust?

- Creation of an independent voice for Berwick Rangers supporters;
- To build a block of shares in Berwick Rangers which are collectively held by the Trust;
- To achieve democratically elected representation on the Board of Directors;
- To ensure that fans views are taken account of in decisions by the Club;
- To bring the Club closer to the local community.

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

www.berwicktrust.co.uk or phone (01289) 333103.

What have the Supporters Trust Achieved for its Members?

- Gained a significant share holding in the football club through the purchase of shares
- Donated £500 to the youth set up for season 2004/5.
- Committed a further **£5000** to help fund the new Youth Initiative- which includes teams at three levels: U15, U17 and U19.
- Helped the football club with UEFA Club Licensing documents, which were crucial to the ongoing survival of the club.
- Donated £5000 with no strings attached to football club funds.
- Recruited nearly 140 members - almost half of our core home support.
- Provided members with a regular newsletter and web-site.
- Organised a range of fundraising events and activities.
- Invested a further £10,000 in the football club by purchasing 10,000 shares

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**Autumn 2005
Newsletter
Free to Members**

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TRUST UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

WELCOME to the Trust's latest newsletter!

I'd like to thank all the contributors to this issue, and extend an invite to all Trust members to contribute too.

I'm sure that all fans will join with me in extending our best wishes and congratulations to John Coughlin, the coaching staff and players for this record-breaking start to the new season, with at the time of writing, 7 straight league wins. Even more pleasing is the manner of this achievement, having witnessed some sensational football being played at home and away.

Unfortunately there have been relatively few to witness it, with most crowds under 400. My personal opinion is that the quality of football is only one

factor affecting crowds. Just as important is the whole 'spectator experience' with modern football fans expecting good facilities, car parking and a sense of belonging to their club. We have a lot of work to do in this area, and repeated appeals in the press on the lines of 'use it or lose it' are going to fall on deaf ears unless we can improve in all areas.

Berwick Borough Council has commissioned a feasibility study on Shielfield Park, which will look at the potential for bringing the stadium into the 21st Century. Standing still is not an option, as it is becoming increasingly difficult for the

Supporters Club to meet the standards being set. Both the Trust and the Supporters Club are represented on the Working Group, and we will try to keep fans up to date with any developments.

On a different note, I'm delighted to report that the Trust is now in possession of all our Share Certificates, with a total of 55,000 shares in the PLC. Together with the Supporters Club, that represents a very significant holding (about 26%) for the two supporters groups.

The Trust has also made a first payment to the BRFC Youth Initiative, more of which elsewhere. First impressions are that David Buglass and his colleagues have achieved a

great deal in a very short time, and we're delighted to support their efforts.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and continue to enjoy what promises to be a great season,

All the best, John



Chairman John Bell

OFFICIAL HOME SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE - PRICED £35.00
CALL INTO THE TRUST CLUB SHOP • SHIRTS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ONLINE

TRUST INVEST £4.5k IN YOUTHS



Trust hand over the cheque for £4,500 Pictured (L to R), Mark Swanston (committee member), Colin Pike (vice- chairman), David Buglass (head of youth development), Eddie McCall (committee member) and Sean Simpson (youth coach)
Inset: Our Trust logo is on all Under 15, Under 17 and Under 19 training kit - as well all coaching staff.

Last season the Trust were approached by Youth Initiative manager David Buglass who asked for further financial support from us. The committee decided that we would donate £1,500 to each of the three youth sides as it is without question a very worthwhile cause. David was obviously pleased: "We are delighted that the Supporters Trust have taken this fantastic opportunity to donate these monies to the Youth Initiative and the £4,500 will go a long way towards securing our future with the squads we now have in place. Working out the expenditure for running these squads at the beginning of a season is always quite daunting and to be given an injection like this will secure our

day to day operation and allow us to move onto other longer term goals such as increasing our links with the local community. We're already in advanced discussions with the local High School with regards to running Community Squads and we will shortly be hoping to make an announcement with regards to the appointment of a Community Coach who will work in the local schools. It's an exciting time all around for the club and the main aim will continue to support John Coughlins aim to develop our first team and we hope it is only a matter of time before we can see local players playing on Shielfield Park on a Saturday".

KIDS GO FREE

The Trust are happy to support the club's latest scheme to increase crowds - 'Kids Go Free'. For the remainder of the season, any child accompanied by an adult will be admitted to Shielfield free of charge (U16's only). The Trust were approached by the football club to help out with the cost of an advert to be played on Radio Borders. We were happy to fund the ad as we believe it is vital to get more young people along to Shielfield. Hopefully the advert pays off and we start to see more youngsters enjoying football at Berwick instead of in front of a TV or 60 miles north or south of the town!

NEW MEMBERS DRAW

From October the Trust is starting what will be called a "members monthly draw". Hopefully this will be one of a number of initiatives in the not too distant future designed to make our loyal members feel more included.

The format is extremely simple. As you know, each member has a membership number. These will all be put into a "hat" each month with the winner drawn at random. There, how much simpler can that be, no national lottery nonsense here! Although we do have a set of balls called Stephen !

Unfortunately none of the prizes will be life changing but hopefully you'll find them acceptable none the less. For our first months prize, up for

grabs will be one of the splendid new replica home shirts, as shown below.



Another incentive for our members will be this: any existing member who signs up a new member in the calendar month prior to the draw taking place will receive TEN, yes ten, entries into that month's draw.

The draw itself will take place on the last calendar day of the month with the winners notified by email or snail mail! They will also get a mention on our soon to go live new Trust website which will include some details about

themselves, plus a picture, if it's not too spooky !

TRUST PROVIDE SPARTANS PROGRAMME

The matchday programme for September's City Cup final match against Spartans at Shielfield Park was funded and published by the Supporters Trust. We had heard that the club had no plans to issue a programme so we took the initiative and decided to provide the club with a small four page issue. It was well received and we will be on hand to help out again if need be.



the home game against East Fife on 22nd October, where we will be giving out badges to the youngsters and raising people's awareness of the Anti-Racism message. Football is one of the best tools we have to encourage racial integration. We're all football crazy - go to any park on a weekend and you'll see our national sport played by people of all racial and religious backgrounds. So come along and show your support for this initiative and maybe even take in the all Asian Football Final being held at Celtic's Parkhead Stadium later in the month.

NEW TRUST FORUM

Another way we are trying to stay in touch with members is through the power of the Internet. Trust members worldwide can log on and ask the committee questions or maybe offer suggestions. To join in, you simply need to log on to our website @ www.berwicktrust.co.uk and register.

ANTI-RACISM

Show Racism the Red Card's 2nd annual Fortnight of Action takes place this October 13th to 27th and, as last year, the Trust will be giving their support to this worthwhile initiative. We hope to be making a presence at

LATEST TRUST NEWS

SUPPORTERS DIRECT

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

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

NEW WEBSITE ONLINE

**www.
berwicktrust
.co.uk**

Some time ago the Trust Committee identified the need for greater communication with trust members. In an effort to move this forward a new website has recently been launch. Our resident website expert Paul Smith has devised this as well as designing the new site.

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

OUR TRUST - A GUIDE

History

The history of Berwick Rangers Football Club stretches back 124 years. Throughout that period there have been highs and lows, but there has always been a club. A supporters' trust cannot guarantee greater success but works to ensure the club continues for the benefit of the community and the next generation of fans. The Trust seeks to safeguard the club's long term future.

What is a Trust?

Over a few years Supporters' Trusts have been formed in most Scottish and English Clubs. Some of these have been in response to a financial crisis at their clubs, where the very existence of the club has been at stake, but others have been set up to help ensure that the club remains democratic and community-run. Most of these organizations have been formed with the assistance of a public funded body - 'Supporters' Direct in Scotland' - set up to support the creation and continuance of these grass roots societies.

However, since Berwick Rangers FC is operated on a share basis, it is easy to see how a few determined individuals could wrest this structure away. A Supporters Trust works to ensure that this does not occur.

A Supporters' Trust is an organization formed by fans to strengthen the bonds between the club and the community, and to represent the interests of the community in the running of the club. It is a non-profit making Industrial & Provident Society and is answerable in law, thereby ensuring it is run in a legally responsible manner. For legal reasons it is called the Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited, but we all know it as the Berwick Trust. We have quickly become one of the largest shareholders in the club, and will work towards obtaining more. It can also hold shareholder's proxies for the AGM of the club, should any motion be proposed that is against the benefit of the fans and community. Although the trust is independent of the Supporters Club we look to work together on

future projects.

Owners

The Trust is owned and run by YOU, the members. Each person has one vote and they elect a Board to manage the Trusts affairs. Important decisions are taken at General Meetings where every member has a single vote regardless of how much they have given to the Trust. Any member can stand for election to the Society Board at the AGM.

Guidance

Every Trust has a set of rules that it must follow and will be under the guidance of the Government sponsored body 'Supporters Direct in Scotland'. The rules make it clear that the Trust must be run for the benefit of the community and that no individual can outvote any other. Nobody is paid, or receives expenses, from Trust funds.

A monthly fee of between £2 - £10 will be charged for trust membership.

Your Reward

By joining the Trust you'll show that you agree that Berwick Rangers Football Clubs future needs to be safeguarded and believe that supporters can play a responsible role in the running of the club. You'll show that you believe that the club is an important asset that should be run for the benefit of the community. You will jointly own shares in the club and your financial contribution will be used to buy shares and benefit the club. Like over 100 sets of supporters throughout the UK, you'll be agreeing that collectively we can ensure that the club is run democratically.

If you have any questions regarding the Trust and how the committee run it, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Forthcoming Trust Events...

The Gangsters of Ska

Friday 25th November 2005
at the Black & Gold (8pm)
Tickets £10

70'S

Saturday 29th October 2005 at the Black & Gold (8pm)
Tickets £5 - from Berwick Youth Project/Black & Gold

Tickets now available from the Black & Gold & Berwick Youth Project



Book now to avoid
disappointment!

LATEST TRUST NEWS

TRUST A.G.M.

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

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

EX-PLAYER JOINS TRUST

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



FANS TOUR HUNGARY & CZECH



The Berwick Rangers supporters team 'Ducket Wanderers' have recently returned from representing the town and the football club. This time they were touring Hungary where they played a game in Budapest and the Czech Republic where they have two games arranged- one in a small town in the East called Zabreh and another in Prague. They were sporting the Trust logo on their shirts as the Trust lent a helping hand to acquire a set of strips.

MEMBERS SURGERY

Over the past few months we have had one or two Trust members comment on how they don't feel as involved as they'd like to. In response to this we are going to be holding a 'members surgery' after every committee meeting, where any member of the Trust can come along and speak to members of the committee about an issues they may have or suggestions they would like to put forward. Committee meetings are held on a monthly basis at the Black & Gold, check the new website for the date of forthcoming meetings. Next planned surgery is Saturday 22nd October at 1pm, all members welcome.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP - 129

BILL PURVIS WRITES...

Having recently taken over as Membership Secretary, at first glance, it appeared that we had approximately 140 Trust members. However, it soon became apparent that some were no longer making any payments to the Trust and their membership had therefore lapsed. As at the end of August the Trust membership actually stands at 129 although I have still to contact 3 or 4 annual subscribers.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP AND VIEWS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO US!

Finally, to ensure that we can continue to keep you up to date with Trust matters, please remember to advise any change in your address and/or email address.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Trust are currently conducting a membership drive as we look to further our already huge success. There are now over 120 Trusts in the UK and over 120 members of our Trust. Without the membership, the Trust wouldn't exist so it is vital to sustain a healthy membership. We would ask you to help us in our bid to reach 200 members by the end of the year. We are asking every member to try and sign someone up to the Trust. Even if only half of our members manage this, it would help us break the 200 barrier and increase our annual income by at least £1500. Please turn to the back page for more information, or log on to our new website @ www.berwicktrust.co.uk.

Below we have detailed every Trust member - their name and where they come from. The list is impressive, thank you to all members who have supported us since March 2003.

VACANCY ON TRUST BOARD

The Trust Board are looking to fill a vacancy. The board is permitted a maximum membership of 15 and currently has 14 members. Interested? You must be a Trust member and be willing to make a positive contribution to the work of the Trust by putting forward ideas, making them work, raising funds and supporting ongoing projects. If you require further information, please contact David Cook, secretary to the Trust Board.

1 Paul Smith	Tweedmouth	47 Simon Pryde	Gosforth	98 Edna Shearer	Tweedmouth
2 John Bell	Berwick	48 Derek Purvis	Galashiels	99 Margaret Straughan	Tweedmouth
3 David Cook	Berwick	50 Natalie Pike	Stockport	100 Jim McLeod	Tweedmouth
4 Keith Hall	Duns	52 Albert Robson	Tweedmouth	103 Barry McArthur	Tweedmouth
5 Colin Pike	Spittal	54 Stuart Robson	Southampton	104 Kenny Taylor	Kelso
6 William Purvis	Swinton	55 Nick Rust	York	105 Alan Cartwright	Swinton
7 Alan Bell	Spittal	56 Alex Renton	Chirnside	109 Neil Stevenson	Stamford, Lincs.
8 Derek Bell	Kelso	57 David Spence	Spittal	110 G Goodwin	Bourne, Lincs.
10 Duncan Black	Tweedmouth	58 Douglas Strachan	Tweedmouth	112 Andrew Farmer	Bourne, Lincs.
11 Alan Beith	Berwick	59 David Skeldon	Tweedmouth	113 Collin Gettins	Swinton, Manchester
12 Alan Crossie	Berwick	60 Paul Tennent	Stobhill	114 Ronald Kirk	Duns
13 Diarmid Campbell Jack	Falkirk	61 Nicolas Vagg	Glasgow	116 David Bell	Duns
14 Andrew Dewar	Tweedmouth	62 A Fitzgerald	Lewes	117 Brian Parkin	East Ord
15 Andrew Dickson	Hutton	63 Peter Watson	Tweedmouth	118 Philip Lee	Cambridge
16 Alex Dickson	Berwick	66 Darren Pike	Spittal	119 Norman Fraser	Duns
17 Gordon Dickson	Tweedmouth	67 Steve Carter	Newcastle	120 Neil Simpson	Tweedmouth
18 Keith Douglas	Strirling	68 Neil Moncur	Broughty Ferry	121 John Ferguson	Tweedmouth
19 Walter Deicher	Tweedmouth	69 Brenda Collins	Berwick	122 Phil Rowett	Longridge
20 Graham Exley	Spittal	70 John Gordon	Edinburgh	123 Steve Sweryda	Scremerston
21 Nicola Fewkes	Market Harborough	71 Lesley Jones	Warrington	124 Ian Gregory	Tweedmouth
22 Darren Flannigan	Berwick	72 George Thompson	Berwick	125 Kevin Poulton	Galashiels
23 Graham Flannigan	Berwick	73 Caroline Thompson	Berwick	126 John Mole	Ord
24 Amy Faragher	Tweedmouth	74 Stewart Thompson	Berwick	127 Chris Alexander	Southampton
25 Chris Gall	Eyemouth	75 Scott Weightman	Spittal	128 David Alexander	Southampton
26 David Gregory	Tweedmouth	77 Tony McKenna	Spittal	129 Ian Beresford	Spittal
27 Graeme Henry	Berwick	78 Peter Aitchison	Lochwinnoch	130 David Stewart	Spittal
28 Heather Hay	Tweedmouth	80 Robert Hay	Greenlaw	131 Mark Swanston	Tweedmouth
29 Ian Hay	Tweedmouth	81 Andrew Neville	Edinburgh	132 Chris Sanderson	Paisley
30 Debra Jerdan	Spittal	82 Keith Topham	Sheffield	133 Kathryn Barrtram	Newcastle
32 Stuart Lee	Tweedmouth	83 Nigel Robson	Edinburgh	134 Alan Davernport	Alnwick
33 Elaine Mallory	Tweedmouth	84 Bob Young	Leeds	135 Ian Thompson	Cramlington
34 Alex Matthews	Market Harborough	85 Robin Murdie	Durham	136 Douglas Stenhouse	Bowdon, Cheshire
35 Doug Matthews	Whitley Bay	86 David Ritchie	Edinburgh	137 Stuart Bell	Redcar
37 Linda McCormick	Glasgow	87 William Shiel Dods	Northallerton	138 Dr Andy Fear	Keele
38 Kevin McCormick	Glasgow	88 Alex Blackhall	Edinburgh	139 Clark Elliot	Salford Quays
39 Dennis McCleary	Berwick	89 Michael Donovan	Hemel Hempstead	140 Robert A Elliot	Salford Quays
40 Martin McCleary	Berwick	90 Annie Marie Masson	Hemel Hempstead	141 Tommy Graham	Edinburgh
41 Edward McCall	Tweedmouth	91 Kirsty McLeod	Tweedmouth	142 Chris Richardson	Eyemouth
42 David Morton	Spittal	92 Ian Campbell Davis	Tweedmouth	143 Trevor Slater	Lowick
43 Jack Mathieson	Edinburgh	93 John Watson	Tweedmouth	144 Richard Swanston	Tweedmouth
44 Roy Moffat	Berwick	94 Jackie Watson	Tweedmouth	145 Colin Sykes	Tweedmouth
45 Liam R O'Dwyer	Stockport	95 Norman Douglas	Berwick	146 Cameron Tait	Tweedmouth
46 Liam O'Dwyer	Stockport	96 George Thompson	Seaview, Berwick	147 Gordon Turnbull	Spain