

BERWICK RANGERS SUPPORTERS TRUST

'WORKING FOR CLUB AND COMMUNITY'

Spring 2005
Free to Members

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TRUST RECEIVES DONATION

Following brief correspondence between Trust Chairman John Bell and the extrovert funder of Gretna FC, Brooks Mileson, the Trust received a donation of £10,000 towards its objectives.

John explains how this fantastic donation came about: "I'd read in one paper that Brooks had donated £5000 to the Dundee United Trust when they played Gretna a few months ago, and thought that it might be worth asking if he could support us too. So I wrote to him, he called back, and we met up at a Gretna home game. After the briefest of conversations, he pulled out his cheque book and gave me a cheque on the spot for £10,000!"

Brooks Mileson has become well known for his generosity towards Gretna - what's not such common knowledge is his support for football clubs across the

region, including Penrith, Workington, Blyth Spartans and the Unibond League.



Brooks Mileson

What's particularly relevant, though, is his affinity with the Supporters Trust movement. He prefers to watch games from the terracing, and has little time for the inflated egos that occupy many Board Rooms.

With that in mind, he is happy to support the Berwick Rangers Trust to accumulate a greater shareholding in the Club. Some discussion has already taken place with the Board

and the Trust committee hope to put some proposals to the AGM in April.

We hope that you can join with us in extending our sincere thanks to Brooks Mileson for this tremendous gesture of support, and we wish him and Gretna FC all the best for the future.

JOIN US ONLINE: www.berwickrangers.co.uk

SPRING NEWS SNIPPETS...

FANS SURVEY

The Trust would like to conduct a survey of fan's opinions on Berwick Rangers matters, so that those views can be accurately represented in the future.

In the coming months we'll be holding a series of surveys, questionnaires and on-line polling to see what supporters feel are the real issues affecting the Club. Look out for those, and if you feel you'd like to get involved in organising this, please give John Bell a ring on 01289 333100.

GANGSTERS EVENT A 'BIG HIT'

The popular band "Gangsters of Ska" will be playing for the Trust at the Black and Gold Club on Friday 18th March, and it looks like being a complete sell-out. Requests for tickets were being made as soon as the date was announced, and we're just about up to full capacity of 130.

On a more disappointing note, February's event with 'The Happy Cats' attracted a very small crowd of about 30. We appreciate that Trust members can't get to every event, but perhaps you might consider buying a ticket for a friend or donating a raffle prize. Every little helps!

BOROUGH COUNCIL OFFERING SUPPORT

Berwick Borough Council has earmarked £15,000 towards a feasibility study for redevelopment of Shielfield Park. John Bell has been attending working group meetings along with representatives of the Board and the Supporters Club, and the Council have been particularly inspired by a visit to Hamilton's stadium and the possibilities for 'trading space' to be included in any new development.

TRUST A.G.M.

The Trust will be holding it's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 12 noon on Saturday, 2nd April 2005 (at home to Forfar that day) in the main function room at the Black and Gold Social Club. Papers will shortly be sent out to all Trust members, who will be invited to attend. The main functions of the AGM will be to report back on progress made during the previous year and to consider what activities the Trust plans to undertake in the future; to receive reports from the chairman, on the Trust's finances, and to appoint auditors. The meeting will feature a question and answer session which will give members a chance to put their views to the Trust Board. Remember that we don't hold a monopoly on ideas and would welcome input from Trust members.

There are currently 3 vacancies on the Trust Board, which we're looking to fill. If you're interested and believe you can make a positive contribution to the work of the Trust, contact the Trust Secretary, David Cook, on 01289 301716 or by email at dc@berwick-upon-tweed.gov.uk. Forms to be completed by members wishing to join the Trust Board will be issued with the AGM papers. If there are more applicants than there are vacancies, an election will be held at the AGM. Try and get along - we would find it useful to hear member's views.

NEW WEBSITE

Those of you with access to the Internet will share our appreciation for the excellent work done by Paul Smith in providing the 'Berwick Rangers Online' website.

We also appreciate that there's a great deal of work involved as the 'Webmaster', and Colin Pike has kindly offered to assist by taking on the running of the Trusts web pages. If you have any news or views, please contact Colin - cpike@berwickrangers.co.uk