



Hampton & Richmond Borough FC Supporters Trust

www.hrbfcst.co.uk

The Season Starts.....

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A warm welcome to our second Trust newsletter!

The season is well and truly underway with the Beavers making a solid if not spectacular start in the league as the team beds down with a number of new faces in the squad. The autumn promises to be a busy time for the Trust with new community initiatives and our very first Trust election. If you are an existing Trust member I hope you will take an active part in the election by either exercising your vote or even better by standing for election. New blood and new ideas are very welcomed and we are expanding the number of

Board places for elected directors to six to encourage new people to come forward. Having got off to a very good start we must not let the momentum drop and members should not assume that the Board no longer needs their help just because we are getting on with the tasks in hand.

On the community front, you will read about our very successful first Summer Soccer Fun Weeks and the new Saturday morning mini-soccer which makes a welcome return to the Beveree. We are pleased to say that the Club has embraced these initiatives and we look forward to working closely with them to promote the club through this venture.

And of course we are asking you to help with funding through our new **Trust Lottery** which is described on Page 4 of the Newsletter and our links with **Easyfundraising.org.uk**. In these times of Credit Crunch and rising bills I know it is difficult to keep digging deep to help worthy causes but I hope you will support us in these initiatives. You have a direct say in how your funds are spent!

And lastly, feedback from our first issue was very positive so if you would like to see anything else included please let us know.

Election Special.....



It's not only Obama and McCain who are gearing up for elections this autumn. Having now established itself as an integral part of the football club with a large minority shareholding, the Trust is now moving into its next phase with its first ever election.

The acting Trust Board is now inviting members to stand for the Trust Board elections which will take place in late December. There are six places available for election and we would like to encourage as many people as possible to come forward as candidates so that we can hold a truly democratic contest. If you would like to be considered but are not sure about what being a Trust Board member involves please contact any of the current

Board members or Trust Secretary. Copies of Nomination Papers and Manifesto template will be available for download on the Trust website and via post.

All existing Board members will have to offer themselves for election though this does not apply to any co-opted members.

Candidates must be nominated and seconded by two current Trust members and will be asked to provide a 500 word manifesto on why they should be elected to the Board. Closing date for candidate nominations is 30th October. Manifestos will be circulated to all Trust members with voting papers during November. Candidates will then be given the opportunity to present to Trust members and take questions at a Trust members' evening to be held on 4th December. The full timetable for the elections and details on voting are contained on Page 8.

The whole election process will be overseen by the Trust Secretary and independent election sub committee to ensure a fair and open process in which each candidate has an opportunity to present their case to members.

Full details of the timings for the election and voting arrangements will be made available by post to members and via the Trust Website, www.hrbfcst.co.uk.

I hope you take this opportunity to get involved either by voting in the elections or standing as a candidate to ensure the continued vibrancy of the Trust.

Trust Launch Night.....

On Saturday 16 August the Trust held its Official Launch at the Beveree with a night of music provided by "The River" led by life Trust member, Sandy McClelland.



Chairman Larry Dann hands out the prizes at the Trust Launch

A free buffet was provided by the Trust and over one hundred people were in attendance during the evening. Speeches were made by Trust Chairman, Larry Dann, and by James Mathie from Supporters Direct, our umbrella organisation.

The night also saw a raffle to raise funds for popular centre half, Rob Paris, who has recently undergone a knee operation. The

raffle and generous donations from Trust members raised £1,000 for Rob towards the cost of his operation. We are now pleased to say Rob has had a successful operation and is back on the road to full fitness.

The Trust now has over 200 members and is well on its way to developing a number of projects as outlined in this newsletter.

Trust Supporters' Nights At Beveree

We are encouraging all supporters and Trust members to come down to the clubhouse once a month for an informal social evening and chat to the Trust board on any issue that you would like to raise.

Pool/darts/dominoes and cards will all be available as well as a questionnaire on what events you would like to take part, or watch, on future Thursdays and Saturdays.

Suggestions so far include Karaoke, Quiz nights, darts and pool tournaments, league or killer. We also have been asked about race nights, auctions themed evenings, Murder Mystery evenings, fancy dress nights, comedy nights, live music, cosmetics party, guys and gals nights.

Let us know if you love these ideas or hate them.

Auction Items Wanted!

As another means of raising funds we are looking to gather together a number of football and other items for an auction night. So if you have anything you think might be suitable contact one of the Board members or Lesley Rance. Once we have got enough items together we will display them on the Trust website so you can have a look at what's on offer and then come down to the club to bid on the auction evening.

Items you might consider donating:

- ❖ Football Programmes
- ❖ Signed shirts or footballs
- ❖ Signed player photographs
- ❖ Vintage Hampton shirts
- ❖ Two cup Final Tickets (only joking!)
- ❖ Other sports memorabilia

Trust in the CommunityWelcome back to mini-soccer

One of the key aims of the Trust has been to reinvigorate community utilisation of club facilities through a new community Soccer Programme. Elsewhere in this Newsletter we report on the highly successful Summer Soccer Fun Week which took place in August which was the Trust's first foray into this new territory.

Now we are pleased to announce that the Trust has agreed with the Club to re-introduce a Saturday morning soccer school which will be held on the top training pitch at Beveree from 10am to 11.45am commencing on 20th September.

The soccer school is open to boys and girls of all abilities from age 5 to 12 and will be run by fully qualified FA coaches and, we hope, the occasional appearance

of one or two Hampton & Richmond Borough stars!

The cost of school is £4 per session on a "pay and play" basis with spaces limited to 50 at any one time. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Registration will take place from 9.45am.

We are hoping that if there is sufficient demand the club tea bar will be open for refreshments for mums and dads. Also the Club are considering providing discounted entry to games for mums and dads of children who are regular members of the Saturday morning school.

More information is available from **Russell Clark** on 0797 960 7153.

Summer Fun Weeks Prove Great Success.....

The first two Hampton and Richmond Borough FC Soccer Fun Weeks organised by the Supporters' Trust were completed during the first two weeks of August. Two sets of 50 lucky children each received a weeks free football coaching. The venture was funded by The Trust in conjunction with an equipment grant provided by the Richmond upon Thames Initiatives Fund

The coaching team included our own Shaun MaCauley, Gavin Brown and Chris Hibbs, all players experienced around the local non league football scene. The end of each week saw the clubhouse packed with proud parents, family and participants who their children presented with a medal, certificate and a goody bag.

The children had been divided into three age groups and there were special awards for player of the week; most improved; and all round contribution. There were also two special awards given to the girl and boy of the week. Two very awestruck children each wheeled away a top of the range bike that had been donated by club Director, Steve O'Neill to whom we extend our thanks for such a generous gesture.

Our thanks also go to Tracey Hathaway and Shirley Turner for handling the first weeks' registration so efficiently; to Larry Dann for keeping an eye on things during the week and to Alec Barry for helping the coaches during the week. A special thank you also goes to Mark Smith for the easy going and assured manner in which he dealt with 50 kids descending on the clubhouse at various times during the week.

Such was the success of the first Fun Week, we are now planning a second Autumn half term Fun Week from 27th October – 31 October. Unfortunately we cannot offer a free course this time but we will look at ways to keep the prices down to ensure maximum participation. The Autumn Fun week will cost £50, but for those who attended the Summer course there will be a reduced price of £45. Places are limited to 50 Children aged 6-12 and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. To register your interest please e-mail: anthony@nash3101.fsnet.co.uk or visit the Trust website for more details.



Andy Burnham gets to grips with football.....

Andy Burnham, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport and former head of Supporter Direct, recently made a milestone speech about the current state of football in this country. The following is an extract of journalist David Conn's Daily Telegraph column regarding this important development.

Ever since Andy Burnham was appointed as the minister for culture, media and sport, to what he described as his "dream job" of culture, media and sport secretary in January, the men who run English football have been awaiting with some trepidation his stance towards the game's freewheeling relationship with money.

In this respect, Burnham is a known quantity, an opponent of a clinically commercial view of football, champion of supporter ownership of clubs and the game's grassroots. Given an unpromising brief as administrator of the toothless Football Task Force a decade ago, he fought hard against the prevailing view that football was simply a free-market business which should be left alone to run itself.

Burnham was a pioneer and chairman of Supporters Direct, the initiative which helps supporters gain a stake and say in the running of their clubs, and was instrumental in persuading the Premier League to contribute 5% of its booming television money to grassroots facilities via the Football Foundation.



Given that form, Burnham has bided his time before presenting his vision, not wanting to be seen as too eager to get his teeth into big-business football, now he has a position of genuine influence.

The choice of venue for his first substantial statements on football is significant: a speech to the Co-operative Party, which is dedicated to mutual forms of ownership. Speaking to the Guardian yesterday before his speech, Burnham said he is "not flinching" from his view that supporter

ownership is the ideal model for football clubs, most true to their character as sporting homes of belonging, rather than "global brands" to be bought for profit.

His comments are not intended as an attack on "foreign" ownership, but he does point to dangers for the fabric of football in English clubs' openness to takeovers from anywhere. "We should not delude ourselves that the reason England is attracting so much interest is solely because of the quality of football," he said. "It is also because other countries, such as Germany and Spain, have football clubs which are mutually owned by their supporters, democratic and not for sale. I believe English football is at a crossroads and if it follows the same path in the next 10 years, there is a risk that it will lose touch with its core support."

There is an inescapable sense of déjà vu in these remarks. The Football Task Force, which brought fans' groups together with the game's authorities in an ultimately failed attempt to reach agreement, covered similar ground. Burnham then supported the call for a "fit and proper person test" which the FA and Premier and Football Leagues rejected, and he commissioned research which showed that young and less well-off fans had been excluded by price rises - which look distinctly modest compared to prices now.

Continues on page 6

New Trust Lottery Launched!.....

This autumn we are launching a new fund raising initiative to help the Trust in meeting its community projects and hope that you will be able to take part. Those of you who were members of the Supporters Club will be familiar with the request for a small monthly donation to help boost funds. The Trust is taking up this idea but giving you as members the ability to win cash prizes in via a quarterly draw.

This is how it works.....

Members contribute in multiples of £5 per month with each £5 earning you one entry into the draw. So if you give a regular monthly amount of £10 you receive two entries into the draw.

Each quarter, 1st of March, June, September and

December we will make a prize draw with 20% of all funds raised in that quarter going in prize money as follows:

- 1st Prize: 60%
- 2nd Prize: 30%
- 3rd Prize: 10%

So for example, if there are 50 Trust members paying £10 per month, this will provide a prize fund each quarter of £300 with a first Prize of £180, Second Prize £90, Third Prize, £30. The Trust will have raised £1,200 for its various good causes. If we raise more each quarter the prize fund increases and Trust members benefit.

In order to take part you will need to set up a standing order in favour the Trust (our bank details are below) and please make sure that you **put your name as a reference** so that we

can check that it is you who have paid. We also ask you to e-mail us confirming your intention to take part with details of how much you wish to contribute (there is no upper limit!).

Bank Account Details

Hampton & Richmond Borough FC Supporters' Society Ltd

Co-operative Bank plc
Sort Code: 08-92-99
Account No.: 65294343
Ref: your name

And please confirm to the following:

e-mail:
anthony@nash3101.fsnet.co.uk

Forthcoming Fixtures

4 Oct	A	Fisher Athletic
11 Oct	?	FA Cup 3rd Qualifying Round
18 Oct	H	Team Bath
21 Oct	H	Maidenhead United
25 Oct	A	Bishops Stortford (or FAC 4Q)
1 Nov	A	Eastleigh
8 Nov	H	Worcester City (or FAC 1R)
15 Nov	H	Dorchester Town
22 Nov	?	FA Trophy 3rd Qualifying Round
29 Nov	A	AFC Wimbledon
6 Dec	A	Bognor Regis Town

Join the Trust today.....

There are a number of ways you can join the Trust and support our aims and objectives. An annual subscription of just £10 secures you one share in the Trust and allows you to vote in all Trust business and elections. You can also support us with a discretionary monthly standing order. For details, please contact Tony Nash, Trust Treasurer (anthony@nash3101.fsnet.co.uk).

Annual	£10
Annual concession	£5
Junior Annual	£1
5 Years	£40
10 Years	£80
Life	£150
Corporate annual	£100

The Trust is a "not for profit" organisation and does not pay dividends to shareholders. All profits are reinvested into Trust projects.

If you are a shareholder in the club limited company, why not donate your shares to the Trust and maximise your voice in all matter concerning the club?

"Why not donate your shares to the Trust and maximise your voice in all matter concerning the club?"

Help raise funds for the Trust through Easy Fundraising

Shop online and help the Trust.

If you are someone who regularly uses the internet to buy goods or services and in case you forgot Christmas is just around the corner, there is now a way that you can help the Trust to raise money with absolutely no extra cost to yourself. easyfundraising.org.uk provide a FREE service where you can shop with your favourite online stores. You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the links from the easyfundraising

website first, each purchase you make will generate a **cashback donation** to the Trust. For example, spend £25 with WH Smith and 3.5% will be donated. You will have raised £0.88, at no extra cost to your purchase. Make any purchase from Amazon and 2.5% will be donated. Insure your car with Direct Line and raise £30.00, or purchase a mobile phone from O2 and earn £17.50, and so on. There are over 600 retailers who have joined the scheme.

Many retailers give exclusive 'Internet-only' discounts, special offers and even money saving

'eVouchers' to our members, so as well as raising funds, you can also use the site to save money. You can also earn funds by using the easysearch search engine when searching the web. Each successful search will be rewarded with another small donation to the Trust.

We therefore urge you to sign up on behalf of the Trust and make an extra contribution to support our worthy causes.

To register go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select Hampton & Richmond Borough FC Supporters' Trust as your chosen cause.



Player News.....Four to watch

Robbie Kember



Signed in the Summer of 2008 from Eastbourne Borough, having been on Dev's radar since his Crawley days, a tigerish midfielder who has also played for Grays and Tonbridge Angels.

John Scarborough



Signed from Sutton in the close season, John appeared almost 200 times for the Ambers before departing for pastures new. A tall commanding centre back John has also appeared for the British University team

Chris Robinson



Young wing-back signed from Staines Town where he had been Captain of the Reserves and Academy. Spent time on-loan at Hendon in the Ryman Premier and has also appeared for Slough Town. As a youngster appeared for Hampton's Under 18 side prior to joining Staines.

Nana Badu



Signed in the close season from Walton Casuals where he scored 15 goals in 28 games in the Ryman League. Previously with Tilbury, Maidenhead, Fisher and Great Woking and was offered the chance to play in Germany with St.Pauli.

Andy Burnham gets to grips with football.....

However, besides Supporters Direct and the Football Foundation, the Task Force led to no action on club ownership, ticket prices or the distribution of money in the game. The government was clear it was not going to intervene by legislating or imposing a regulator, and it will not do so now. It was always Burnham's view that the FA is the governing body responsible, but it was not taking that job on with sufficient vigour or confidence.

"One body is responsible for the full spectrum of the English game and that is the FA," he explained yesterday. "Regulation has to be led by the FA; it is not for the government to run football. It is time for the FA to step up to the challenge, lead an in-depth look at the regulation of football's finances, and be more robust, for the overall health of the game."

While resisting talking about specific clubs, it is clear that as an Everton fan, Burnham is concerned that the takeover of Manchester City by Sheikh Mansour of Abu Dhabi will further concentrate success in the hands of the richest clubs.

"If we have a big five now, not just a big four, what will other clubs have to play for at the top?" he asked. "Lower down, there is a huge gap between the Premier League and Championship, and for Championship clubs, promotion can be an unhappy experience, which is not good."

To address this competitive imbalance, and to encourage more players to develop and eventually strengthen the England team, Burnham favours introducing quotas of home-grown players, which the Premier

League vehemently opposes. Burnham also wants the Premier League to look more closely at a fairer distribution of TV money, to ensure a more level financial field on which clubs will compete.

"The Premier League has taken steps towards more even sharing [the income from overseas TV rights, which has been increasing, is shared equally among the 20 clubs]. But I keep referring to the NFL, which has equal sharing, and in which owners cannot simply pour money in from outside to buy all the best players. In the US, the most free-market country in the world, they understand that equal distribution of money creates genuine competition, which is good for the league. The danger in England is that individual clubs rush for the money today, without considering the long-term future, and so diminish the game.

"We need to ask urgently what we want for the future of our game, before something precious is lost. I am asking the FA to rise to that challenge."

Burnham argues that the "fit and proper person test", currently restricted to barring directors or 30% shareholders if they are convicted criminals or bankrupts, should be widened. Prospective owners should have to show their plans for clubs, to demonstrate they will act in clubs' best interests, and not introduce large debts.

On ticket prices, he is not prepared to prescribe what clubs can charge, but does want to see matches made more affordable. "High ticket prices have largely excluded young people. A generation has grown up without the great, formative experience I had of being a football fan."

Burnham supported the same ideas 10 years ago, but the FA then stood with the Premier and Football Leagues to resist any regulation. Now, however, the governing body looks less of a laughing stock under the chairmanship of Lord Triesman, a Labour peer who has developed a close working relationship with Burnham. The pair have discussed Burnham's speech already, with Triesman apparently agreeing to address these issues robustly.

An FA spokesman said yesterday: "Lord Triesman met with Andy Burnham to discuss some of the biggest issues facing the game, including fit and proper ownership of clubs and the development of home-grown talent. Like Andy he firmly believes that clubs must preserve their links with their communities, and shares concerns if clubs are being bought for their short-term investment value rather than their long-term success. These issues, and the need to reconsider football's regulatory framework in this area, are very high on the chairman's list of priorities."

That, from an FA chairman, represents a sea change already. Whether anything substantial will result this time round, however, remains to be seen.

Saturday 4th October
Quiz Night
At Hammonds

Teams of 3 to 6, £5 a head, wonderful prizes!

Includes food cooked by the delightful Sarah!

Pop in on your way back from Fisher Athletic

Forthcoming Trust Events.....

Saturday 4 th October	Quiz Night
Saturday 1 st November	Halloween Disco
Sunday December 14 th	Kid's Christmas Party
Friday December 19 th	Christmas quiz
Saturday January 31 st	Burns Night with "The River"
Saturday February	Race Night
Saturday March	Quiz night
Saturday April	Fancy Dress party
Friday May 22 nd	End of Season Presentations' Hotel Antoinette

A broken down freight train outside Oxenholme.....

that hampered my scheduled rendezvous with the 9.01am Virgin Pendolino from Wigan North Western to London Euston did nothing to dampen my memories of the historic night before: Wednesday 16th July 2008.

After checking in over the bar at the conveniently located Brunels Hotel (and watching someone buy a round of three pints and get change from a fiver!) I went for a stroll around Wigan Pier before making the short journey to Ashton Town's Edge Green Street ground for this show piece occasion: St Helens Town FC v AFC Liverpool.



This was AFCL's first ever game having formed earlier this year. The result (1-1) was academic although credit for AFCL's first ever goal went to Martin Crowder, scoring from the spot after about half an hour. The boys looked a little hesitant and overawed at the start but settled down to show themselves to be an exciting, attacking, passing team. As most of the St Helen's team are Scousers, it got a bit tasty at times and the St Helens goalie deciding to sport a pair of Man U shorts added to the crowd "bonding

If you want to see more photographs about the entire build up and match I suggest you go to the AFCL website www.afcliverpool.org.uk and take a look at the superb montage of photos taken by club photographer Sharon Dobson.

Constitutional Confusion Confronts Cardiff – the law works in mysterious ways!

Having been a regular topic of conversation among Cardiff City fans over the years, a determined group of Bluebirds led by Paul Corkery will shortly be putting the dream into reality. Having gone through the process ourselves we can empathize with the difficulties that they have faced along the way, however one thing we didn't have to face was the possibility that the Financial Services Authority (FSA) would reject our Trust name on the basis that the name chosen is a "household name". At the time this piece was written the Supporters Direct solicitors', Cobhams, had been contacted by the FSA to warn them that their application might be rejected as the chosen name, not surprisingly, included the words, "Cardiff City".

Apparently the FSA has recently rejected an application from the newly formed Nottingham Forest Supporters' Trust on the "household name" ground and the FSA gave notice to Cobhams that the Cardiff City FC Trust application could suffer the same fate. This quite bizarre situation has come completely out of the "blue" (sorry!) and is virtually without precedent, although apparently the same thing happened a while back in the case of two other fans' trusts – those at Man U and Man City. In order to rectify this situation they can alter the name of their trust so that it doesn't include the words "Nottingham Forest" or they can get a letter from the club giving them permission to use their name: I understand the latter is not a viable option as the club and the Trust don't exactly see eye to eye.

Anyway back to Cardiff City. They held their open meeting on Saturday 29th March at the wonderfully named Welsh Institute of Sport at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff when over 100 supporters attended the meeting and voted unanimously to set up a supporters' trust. If you want to learn more about the developments at the Cardiff City (or similar!) Supporters' Trust, I can recommend that you go to the website www.youtube.com and search for "CCSC Trust Meeting"; "Cardiff City Supporters' Trust"; "Cardiff City Supporters' Trust 2"; and "CCST – Highlights" and you can watch and listen to some interesting interviews (and book in for a sun tan – log on and you will see what I am talking about!).

Although the FSA seems determined to thwart this new venture the supporters' trust is nevertheless going ahead with its planned launch on 4th September at (wait for it) the Electricity Social and Welfare Club in Pontcanna!! Marvelous stuff!



GRECIAN 2000! (Well a bit more actually)

Following a season of success on the pitch - winning the playoff final against Cambridge United in May and promotion to the Football League - trust owned Exeter City are celebrating another milestone: reaching over 2500 members of the supporters' trust. Some 300 new members have joined, taking membership to approaching 2600.

Trust and Club Chairman, Denise Watts, saluted City fans who have 'stepped up to the plate', saying, "The Support that we have received from our members has been quite phenomenal. Without this support who knows where we would be today". The reaching of this target is the reaching of a major target emanating from the review of the organisation the trust undertook 18 months ago, which cited the magic 2500 as a realistic and achievable aim. The Trust has already begun to reach higher, with a set of new renewal requests that could take the organisation firmly in the direction of the 3000 mark - bringing it into the upper echalons of trusts.

Something to aspire to!!!!

Paul Robinson

BBC Non League Show

Don't forget, Supporters Direct feature once a month on the show. It's available live across the country on the web, via satellite and digital where available, and in London on 94.9FM and DAB. Even better, you can use the listen again option or listen to the podcast.

**Hampton & Richmond
Borough FC
Supporters Society
Ltd**

C/o 76A Gloucester Road
Hampton Middx TW12 2UJ

E-MAIL:
Lesrancehrbfc@aol.com

**Supporters
Direct**

[www.supporters-
direct.org](http://www.supporters-direct.org)

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.hrbfcst.co.uk

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Borough FC Supporters'
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Services Authority. We are
members of Supporters
Direct.*

Timetable for Elections

Nominations close (valid nominations to be received at the specified address)	30 October
Nominations, voting papers and manifestos sent to Trust members	13 November
Candidates night at club (candidates, if they so wish, can present their cases and answer any questions in an open forum to Trust members)	4 December, 7.30pm at the clubhouse, Beveree
Polling Day and Count	20 December (home game v Basingstoke Town)
Votes must be cast either by post or in person by 5pm. A ballot box will be available from 2pm on the day at the clubhouse.	
Results announced	21 December

Voting

The electoral system will be described in more detail when voting papers are dispatched but it is proposed that the Preference System will be adopted. Trust members will be able to vote by post or in person on polling day.

All Trust members aged 16 and above are eligible to vote. **To qualify to vote you must have been a fully paid up member of the Trust as at 1st October 2008.**

Election Campaigning

Candidates are encouraged to campaign actively. Candidates will have the following opportunities to put forward their case to members:

- 500 word initial Manifesto
- Participation (optional) in an Open Forum at the Clubhouse on Thursday 4th December, 7.30pm to answer any questions from Trust members.
- Access to Supporters Trust programme page for brief article subject to football club agreement
- Candidates will be responsible for the content of all publicity material they publish, which must comply with the rules for manifestos.