

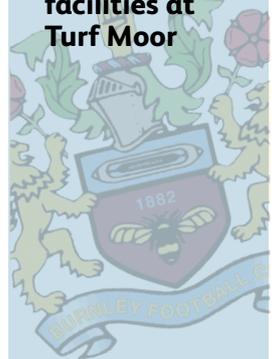
THE CLARETSTRUST

ONE CLUB ONE FUTURE

Issue 31
Winter 2017

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**IF YOU
HAVE EMAIL
AND STILL
RECEIVE YOUR
NEWSLETTER,
ETC. BY POST,
PLEASE LET
US HAVE
YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS:
WE CAN CUT
OUR COSTS
ENORMOUSLY
BY DOING
THIS. (IT WILL
MAKE US
GREENER, TOO!)**

Don't they know it's Christmas?



Football supporters know all too well the impact that changes to the fixture schedule can have. Plans are rearranged and often expense incurred when a match is moved to accommodate cup football or TV scheduling.

Representatives from the Premier League Fans Group have recently started to meet with Sky Sports and BT Sport to put forward supporter views on such changes, and to look at ways we can mitigate this impact.

The news that broke in October that Sky planned to fill their 'Super Sunday' TV slot on 24 December as usual, despite it being Christmas Eve, was hugely disappointing and frustrating for supporters. The discussion was dominated by the likelihood of an Arsenal v Liverpool fixture at 4pm but any club was available to be chosen for a televised game.

Supporters would be faced with the unenviable task of deciding between family, friends and loved ones and any pre-existing plans for this time of year, and continuing their loyalty and support for their club.

Club staff would also face similar difficulties. Public transport shuts down early on Christmas Eve and travel may be at a greater expense. These staff aren't the well-paid millionaires, but the catering, hospitality, stewarding and security personnel required to fulfil a fixture. This extends further to police, local authorities and others who would have to work to facilitate such a change.

This must not be allowed to happen, in this

season or in future seasons. We are willing to work with the broadcasters and the Premier League to avoid such pitfalls for the benefit of all. We don't want this to be the ghost of Christmas future.

Supporters should be included in any decision-making process when such drastic changes are to be made. This is not something we are taking lightly. We have already successfully campaigned for cheaper away tickets and will continue our work to ensure match-going fans are treated as fairly as possible.

It has now been confirmed that no games will be televised on Christmas Eve so fans can relax and enjoy the festivities as normal. However, we must make sure that this question does not arise again in the future.

The Clarets Trust, along with other supporters groups from Burnley, Trusts and Supporters of other Premier League Clubs, has said a very firm **no** to suggestions for a game to be played on Christmas Eve at 4pm for TV. We all know that games are moved around increasingly to meet the demands of the television companies. The fans are a low priority in this but it is a consequence of accepting big TV money into football.

The Trust believes this latest proposal for Christmas Eve is not acceptable. It would be impossible for transport reasons for away fans – and indeed not easy for home fans! There are many other reasons to say no to this TV demand and it is time more thought was given to the lifeblood of football: those who pay to go through the turnstiles.

We don't want this to be the ghost of Christmas future



Chairman's statement

Success to be proud of

Now we find ourselves in the last couple of months of 2017 we can look back and think what a great year it has been.

The Clarets Trust congratulates Sean Dyche on his five years at Turf Moor. What a five years it has been, with two automatic promotions, firstly as runners-up in the Championship, then an immediate bounceback as champions following relegation. Now for the first time since the 1970s we have stayed up and are playing consecutive seasons in the Premier League.

It has been a great start to the 2017/18 season for the team, with several international players all making their mark for the Clarets, including Jack Cork getting his first England cap against Germany.

Sean came in as a relative unknown but now clearly figures amongst the all-time great managers of Burnley – and long may that continue!

Well done Sean and all the best for the future.

In May, we ensured we had a secured a successive season in the Premier League for the first time since 1975. We have a string of international players – and players costing over £10 million each – a far cry from the Burnley of the past.

We have a training facility at Gawthorpe (Barnfield) which is a great facility for the Club and has cost over £10 million to provide. We also have a manager in Sean Dyche who, when any vacancy in any other top Club occurs, is automatically on the list of names being considered. Let us hope he stays at Turf Moor for many years yet.

What of the Trust? We do need more members, especially people living in the Burnley area. So do talk to other Clarets fans and persuade them to consider joining – easily done via our website www.claretsrust.co.uk

The Trust was successful in getting Turf Moor listed as an Asset of Community Value a few years ago. Unfortunately this only lasts for five years so next year we will have to consider doing it all again.

Do remember the Trust is your Trust. It is a democratic body and is there for all Burnley fans. If you have any thoughts or ideas on what we should be doing please do let us know.

Finally we have got off to a good start this season – let us hope it continues and that we end up in the top half of the table.

Come on Burnley – Up The Clarets!

The Trust has over 160 shares in Burnley Football Club but we would like to increase that if we can.

If you have a single share and wish to transfer it to the Trust we will give you Life Membership of the Trust.

We would also like to be able to buy some of the odd shares that do become available to buy. To help us do this we would welcome any specific financial donations to the Trust for this purpose.

Do contact us if you are willing to consider this. Write to us at Clarets Trust, 30 Deerpark Road, Burnley, BB10 4SD.

Peter Pike
Chair, Clarets Trust



Sean now clearly figures among the all-time great Burnley managers

Trust Officers

Chairman
Peter Pike

Secretary
(vacant)

Website
Tim Blackledge

Treasurer
Michael Benyon

Community Officer and Membership Secretary
Martin Barnes

Board Members
Terry Hephrun
Jane Pike
John Trippier

Trust Corporate Members:
JD Wetherspoon
Lancashire Telegraph
UHY Hacker Young
Moorhouse's Brewery

Doncaster honour legend Charlie Williams



Doncaster Rovers fans have created an exhibition to remember club cult hero Charlie Williams. One of the first black players to play professionally in English football after the Second World War, Barnsley-born Charlie Williams signed for Doncaster Rovers as a 19-year-old in 1948 and would go on to make 171 appearances for the club through the 1950s. He later rose to national fame as a comedian on Granada Television in the 1970s, having started his comedy career entertaining fans at supporters' clubs in Yorkshire.

The idea for an exhibition celebrating his contribution to Doncaster's history came from Martin

He played in one of Doncaster Rovers' best ever teams

O'Hara, FSF deputy chair and Vikings Supporters Co-operative member, with support from the club. The idea was originally for a mural honouring Williams at the Keepmoat Stadium, and evolved into an exhibition stand.

Martin said: 'Due to his comedy career a lot of people seem to forget Charlie was actually a bloody good footballer. He played in probably what was one of Doncaster Rovers' best ever teams and more than held his own. I think he'd be remembered quite differently here if he hadn't become nationally recognised.'

Williams, who scored only once for Rovers, was a robust defender telling *The Times*: 'I was never a fancy player'.

Charlie's father moved to England from Barbados after serving in the Second

World War, eventually settling in Barnsley. Charlie played for colliery teams while a young miner before joining Rovers.

'He came from nothing,' Martin said. 'And this exhibition shows young people in the area of what they can become if they really want to. So we thought it was important to celebrate his life.'

Despite becoming a Rovers legend, Williams faced prejudice when he played as did many of football's earliest black

players.

'As one of the first black players he received awful racist abuse,' Martin said.

'He overcame that by just being funny. He hit back with his humour. He used to say things like "If you don't shut up, I'll come and move in next door." That type of humour hasn't aged well, but it was his way of dealing with it.'

www.fsf.org.uk/blog/view/Rovers-remember-pioneering-black-player

Charlie Williams: 1927–2006

- 171 appearances for Doncaster Rovers 1948–1959
- Awarded MBE in 1999 for charity work
- Lifetime achievement award at 2000 Black Comedy Awards
- Voted Doncaster Rovers' 'All Time Cult Hero' in 2004 BBC *Football Focus* poll

Stand up for the Shrews

In a historic achievement, Shrewsbury Town Football Club are one step closer to being the first club in England and Wales to introduce safe standing at their Montgomery Waters Meadow stadium, following a successful crowdfunding campaign, thanks to a considerable contribution from FansBet. FansBet said, 'We know exactly how important the issue of safe standing is to fans in helping generate the correct environment to enjoy watching football for supporters young and old.'

Roger Groves of the Shrewsbury

'This is a remarkable achievement': safe standing on the way in

Town Supporters' Parliament said, 'This is a remarkable achievement by the hundreds of fans and sponsors who have paved the way for the thousands more to bring standing back to their clubs. I am very proud that Shrewsbury Town has been at the heart of this.'

Brian Caldwell, Shrewsbury Town CEO, added 'We are delighted that Shrewsbury Town will be the flagship club in addressing this issue, which is so important to so many fans. We will work to gain the necessary certification, and hope to have supporters watching from the safe standing area before the end of the season.'

Fans nationwide have campaigned to see safe standing introduced for many years, as government policy currently prohibits many clubs from offering fans the chance to stand. As one of the few clubs with an all-seater ground able to introduce a rail seating section, Shrewsbury Town will now lead the way in making the case for a change in policy and adding a standing option to the matchday experience for all clubs and fans.

www.tifosy.com/en/campaigns/support-the-campaign-to-install-england-s-first-safe-standing-area

How to join the Clarets Trust or raise issues about your concerns at the Club

If you want to raise any issues about the club that concern you then Clarets Trust can act on your behalf.

You can contact us via email, by phone, by using the Clarets Trust forum hosted by Vital Burnley or by writing to our address.

If you wish to join Clarets Trust, you can also contact us as above.

All details provided below:

CLARETS TRUST

30 Deerpark Rd, Burnley, Lancashire BB10 4SD

PHONE:
07958 143757 (Martin)

EMAIL:
info@claretstrust.co.uk

WEBSITE:
www.claretstrust.co.uk

TWITTER:
@ClaretsTrust

FACEBOOK:
ClaretsTrust



Getting engaged with fans

Since 2016, clubs have been required to meet supporters to discuss club matters under guidelines recommended by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This 'structured dialogue' is now in the English Football League (EFL) rules and EPL Guidance Notes. The Clarets Trust continues to be involved with Structured Dialogue meetings with Burnley Football Club Officials and with the FSF Premier League Fans Group, which holds biannual meetings with Peter Scudamore and other EPL Officials..

Research carried out by the FSF and Supporters Direct shows that most clubs are engaging with their supporters and fielding appropriate club officials.

The survey had 75 responses from supporter organisations across the 92 clubs. Supporters told us that 92% of clubs know about structured dialogue, 85% meet with supporters at least twice a year and 86% provide senior officials for the meetings.

However, the survey did reveal some issues: almost half of supporters asked said their club misunderstand structured

dialogue or didn't act on its outcomes.

Additionally, 34% told us that strategic issues can't be adequately discussed at these meetings – 33% felt that not enough information was provided to supporters and 18% said the meetings were the wrong size for constructive discussions.

Clubs that have supporter representatives at board level fared best: 85% said their club acts upon the structured dialogue commitment, and 100% said they felt that meetings were carried out with the right senior representatives. On-pitch fortunes appear to have no bearing on how fans think their club is engaging with them, with no significant difference in feedback from fans of relegated/promoted teams or those finishing in the top four of the Premiership.

The FSF and Supporters Direct will continue to work with supporter groups, clubs and the football authorities to ensure the structured dialogue recommendations are adhered to and improved upon.

www.fsf.org.uk/latest-news/view/fans-have-say-on-club-engagement-october-2017

Improved disabled facilities at Turf Moor



The Trust, together with other supporters, have been discussing with the club ways to improve facilities for the disabled at Turf Moor. Like other clubs with older grounds, this is not as easy as it sounds and there also has to be due regard to existing season tickets holders.

Burnley FC are now waiting for approval from the appropriate commission on a scheme for about 150 spaces for disabled fans.

It was hoped there would be a decision on this in September, but not so far. Then, if approved, it would be subject to a planning application to the council.

If all goes to plan, work would start in early 2018, for completion for the start of the next season, in August 2018.

This is a major and complex programme but Burnley FC is fully committed to doing this work – and the funding for the project is ring-fenced, and available for the work.