

THE CLARETSTRUST

ONE CLUB ONE FUTURE

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<https://claretstrust.co.uk>

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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!)



Ashley tops POTY poll

The Clarets Trust Player of the Year for this season – as voted for by you, the members, went to this year's outright winner, Ashley Westwood. Ten different players received nominations.

The number 18 player won for his consistent

play through the season, and was presented with the trophy by Trust Secretary, Liam Hallinan and his family, ahead of kick-off on the last day of the season.

Many congratulations to Ashley!

Disabled access stands update



Progress has been much slower than originally planned and whilst there is still a hope both stands will be ready for the start of season – a season later than planned – it seems unlikely at present. The Trust has been involved in talks to improve disabled access for many years now, and the new stands are a welcome development, but we expect some reflection on these substantial delays. Especially before any future stand developments

take place – the Cricket Field Stand (Ladbroke's stand) – will, at some point need attention, and we're sure that an overrun of a year would cause even greater problems. Some Board members have been in the new disabled stand, and the views from it are exceptional. Let us hope both stands are up and running as soon as possible; and that the second screen is in situ soon thereafter – wherever it's finally decided to be placed.

LOOK OUT! FOR NEWS ABOUT ANOTHER REAL ALE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WORSTHORNE BREWERY A RACE NIGHT ANOTHER BURNLEY WOMEN'S GAME BEING SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE TRUST AND BFCiC AND DON'T FORGET, YOU CAN NOW FIND US IN THE FANZONE BEFORE HOME GAMES

Chairman's statement



It is amazing how quickly the new season has come round; we will once again be playing in the Premier League – our best run since the 1960s. I was chatting with the Club Chairman, Mike Garlick, recently and his aim is to strengthen the team if possible, but the transfer market can be tricky. Finding the type of player our manager wants: who will fit into our team at a realistic and fair price, willing to play for a reasonable salary level is far from easy.

As I write this, we have secured the signing of Jay Rodriguez at an initial £5million. It's good to see a true Claret return. He left us when we were 13th in the Championship and urgently needed some cash to come in. Erik Pieters has signed from Stoke for a £1million initial fee.

We have to see if anyone else will leave: Crouch will not play another season, having just announced his retirement. Tom Heaton has moved to Aston Villa. We do not have to sell, which is a good thing, but that said virtually any player could go if we received an extortionate bid.

Our top flight run is the best since 1960s

Our club is run by a board of Clarets fans and long may it last. I do not want to see us taken over by a Russian or Arab billionaire, and I'm sure most fans feel the same.

Survival in the Premier League is never easy. There are six clubs who have a permanent and increasing dominance; and whose main target is to win a trophy and secure a place in Europe. This dominance is somewhat regrettable as they seem to want to dictate the way ahead for football.

From the other 14 teams, three must go down each year. The new boys in the division are Aston Villa, Norwich and Sheffield United. The difference between the Championship and Premiership is huge and those promoted always find it a tough battle to survive. Fingers crossed we will end up slightly higher than last year.

Along the way we clearly have some great games to come at Turf Moor and some challenging trips for the away games. But come on Burnley – it is great to be in the Premier League!

Peter Pike, Chair, Clarets Trust

Willie on the mend



We are delighted to hear that Clarets goal-scoring legend and Honorary Life Member of the Clarets Trust Willie Irvine is home and recovering from an accident in May. The 76-year-old underwent a major brain operation and spent several weeks in hospital after falling down the stairs at his house. His son Darren said: "Dad is far better than we expected and ... has recovered amazingly well. Physically he is 100 per cent but the brain obviously takes a bit longer.

Willie is still a regular at Turf Moor. He played 126 times for Burnley between 1960 and 1968.

Double celebration for Jimmy Robson

Jimmy celebrated his 80th birthday in January and was also presented at the Kettledrum Burnley with Honorary Membership of the Clarets Trust. Just before a private family birthday celebration Peter Pike and Terry Hephurn made a surprise presentation to Jimmy of a certificate and membership card giving him honorary life membership of the Trust. Peter Pike said Jimmy was one of those great members of the best ever Clarets team. Playing in over 200 games for the Club he will always be remembered for his 1962 Cup Final goal which was the 100th cup final goal at Wembley. A true Clarets legend



who still lives in Burnley and one who will never be forgotten in the history of Burnley Football Club.

Burnley Women's match sponsorship

The Clarets Trust were proud to sponsor the Burnley Women's match v Liverpool Feds at Padiham FC's Ruby Civil Arena and were delighted to see Burnley Women win 2-0. Our sponsorship was promoted on Facebook and Twitter, as well as in an email to members, telling them they could get free admission. We hope to sponsor a match again soon. After the fantastic performance – and support – for the England Women's team this summer in the World Cup, let us support the women's game in going from strength to strength.

TRUST OFFICERS

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Welcome to VAR at Turf Moor?

The Premier League is to introduce Video Assistant Referees (VAR) from the start of the 2019/20 season, which means VAR is coming to Turf Moor; and information on refereeing decisions will be displayed to supporters inside the ground via the big screen.

Clubs have agreed on the way the system will be used to keep fans informed. In-stadium communication will come into play when there is a clear delay to a match because of VAR, and when refereeing decisions are over-turned due to the intervention of VAR with graphics being displayed on screen to explain. If VAR believes there is a definitive video-clip which helps

explain an over-turned decision to fans, it will also be screened.

At those clubs which do not have screens, VAR communications will be made via a combination of PA announcements and messages on scoreboards.

In Premier League matches, VAR will only intervene on 'clear and obvious errors' or 'serious missed incidents' relating to goals, penalties, straight red cards and incidents of mistaken identity. VAR has been responsible for some rather contentious decisions in this summer's Women's World Cup, so we will just have to see how things go.



TV fixtures rescheduled

While a European Super League appears to have been rejected again, we still need to be cautious about protecting domestic football – including safeguarding weekend matches. Games can be moved for a whole number of reasons. For most of us, the most frustrating reason is the willingness to reschedule for TV as opposed to the match-goer.

The classic example of this is the necessity for away fans, or those who travel long distances for home games, to book rail reservations 12 weeks in advance in order to secure cheap tickets. But fans are often left with worthless rail tickets when games are moved for TV with only five weeks' notice.

The FSF set up a working group to try to move this forward after the issue was raised repeatedly at meetings of both the Premier League Structured Dialogue and Supporters Group. The Kick-Off Times Working Group (KOTWG) did some number-crunching analysis over a 5-year period, analysing rescheduled games in terms of timing, distance, and availability of scheduled rail services. See <http://www.fsf.org.uk/campaigns/kick-off-times/> for more details.

TV is here to stay, but we must work to ensure that it doesn't make it impossible for we supporters to continue to enjoy the game live from the stands.

New supporters' board

The Clarets Trust and other supporters have always enjoyed a close and co-operative relationship with Burnley FC. However, discussions have taken place on how to take this further. It is proposed to move to have a Supporters Board with a range of fans involved. It will try to be as fair and representative of the Club supporter base as possible. It is intended to involve about 21 fans and that this new

Board should start to meet in September. Clearly the Club believe and hope this will help to strengthen the link between Club and fans.

The Club say: The primary aim is to offer a collective voice to supporters in relation to matters such as ticketing, the matchday experience, stadium facilities and developments, community engagements and many other initiatives.

NEWS ROUND-UP

Astropay

Clarets Trust worked with other supporters to highlight the health implications of one of the ads on the boards pitchside. The Astropay advert included rapid flashing and we received a number of complaints about it which we forwarded to the SLO.

Initially Astropay resisted altering their advert, but we were delighted to learn in February that they were altering the advert and removing the rapid flashing section. A victory for fans.

Goodbye to Harriet

The Trust were sorry to say goodbye to Harriet Harbridge, Burnley FC's Supporter Liaison Officer, this summer. Harriet has been approachable, helpful and committed and we have had a positive working relationship with her in regular meetings. We wish her well and look forward to meeting and working with her replacement.

FSA merger

Since the Football Supporters' Federation and Supporters Direct voted to merge, they've been working as one organisation and are governed by one elected National Council, which itself elects the Board. They are now the Football Supporters' Association. So it will be the 'FSA' in the media; social media pages have been updated; the FSF/SD websites will be in action for a little longer, while the new and improved FSA website is built.

OUR CLUB, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR TRUST

We are delighted to work with Burnley FC in the Community (BFCitC) as part of the 'Our Club, Our Community, Our Trust' project which has gained a Premier League Fans Fund grant.

As part of the launch BFCitC and the Clarets Trust teamed up with the official Disabled Supporters Association to host the Level Playing Fields 'Weeks of Action' at the home fixture against Leicester City.

The Premier League Fans Fund is a commitment from the Premier League to fund projects and organisations which improve the relationship between fans and clubs, the way football supporters engage with each other and fans' experience of the game.

This project will provide a meet point on a matchday in the fanzone for anyone who needs it.

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More Burnley kit goes to SA



Above: Regional MP and our courier to the North, Anthony Arendse, hands over kit at Clementine Sports Academy

We've been successful in getting some more kit over to South Africa in the last few months. We have a couple of volunteers who travel between the UK and South Africa and are able to take an extra suitcase every now and again – our sincere thanks to them for being our personal couriers!

Some of the kit went to our friends at the Ottery Project in Cape Town where it's well used, and well appreciated by our growing band of Clarets fans there.

We were delighted to learn that some kit was also delivered to Clementine Sports Academy, in Kamagugu, Mbombela. Our friendly personal courier to the North of South Africa – another Anthony – explains more about them: 'They have been an active academy since September 2016. In their first 7 months they took part in numerous tournaments, namely the Meridian Cup in 2016, walking away as champions in the U/13s and U/19s as well as being placed 2nd with the U/15s. They also took part in the Mbombela Mayoral Cup in November 2018 only to be defeated in the 1st round. They've learnt a lot from

that tournament as for some players, it was their first real test. They need all the assistance and resources they can get to ensure that the academy grows.

'This is another way to ensure these young footballers exclude themselves from crimes such as drugs, alcohol, teen pregnancy and theft. They are looking to grow into a broader academy that caters for all genders and age groups. So far, they cater for U/10s to U/19s. The senior team plays in the Mbolfu leagues so the young ones can aim to play in a proper league.'

There are still issues with getting the kit to the couriers in London. We sent the last lot – some 30 kilos – by courier. If anyone is able to assist with this, or would like to sponsor it, please do let us know. There's a lot more kit ready to distribute. Our thanks go to all those who have helped get this kit to projects overseas – especially Burnley Football Club for their generous donations.

Turf Moor continues as Asset of Community Value

Five years ago the Clarets Trust submitted the case for Turf Moor Stadium to be listed as an Asset of Community Value – a structure important not only in the football world but to Burnley as a whole. Registration as an ACV covers four aspects:

1. Removal of permitted development rights for change of use.
2. Material planning consideration.
3. Community right to bid.
4. Compulsory purchase rights.

The Trust don't envisage any of these things arising

in the near future, but it's there as protection and to help ensure against anyone buying into the Club with plans of asset stripping.

The ACV is due for renewal this year: the Club agreed to it being resubmitted; the Council will be updating its status imminently.