

## WELCOME TO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CLARETS TRUST NEWSLETTER

Since our last newsletter Turf Moor and Gawthorpe have been sold and leased back, Robbie Blake has been sold to Birmingham City (but not leased back) and the Turf Moor pitch has been a source of constant worry. Not to mention the small matter of the team's fantastic FA Cup win against Liverpool.

On the Trust front progress has been steady and we now have over 350 members. Our first event, the race night was a success with several hundred pounds raised. A good time was had by all and our very own course steward Jeff Brown kept everyone in check. Thanks to all those who supported the event.



A successful North-West Trusts meeting was held at Turf Moor in early December at which Dean Ramsdale spoke about Burnley's Football in the Community scheme. It was particularly interesting to hear from the Wrexham Trust and to contrast their problems with those of Shareholders United.

As pressure grows for supporter representation at the highest levels of the game, there is talk of a crisis in the Premiership from a lack of competition and saturation TV coverage. This is an interesting time for all supporters as, finally, the powers-that-be start to realise that we do have something to contribute to the good of the game.

Finally, I hope every member who attends the Leeds game stays behind for the Open Meeting afterwards. No doubt the sale and leaseback of the ground and what the Trust should be doing will be a major discussion point.

Up the Clarets. Steve.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

### TRUST OPEN MEETING ON SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY



(FOUNDATION BAR @ TURF MOOR)

This is **your** chance to tell us what you think and in turn help to decide what direction the Trust will take.

The Open Meeting will take place in the Foundation bar at Turf Moor on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February after the home game against Leeds United (approx. 2:30 pm.) The bar will be open and the meeting is open to non-members as well as members. It will give supporters the chance to put forward their views on a variety of issues, such as ticket refunds, season tickets and the recent ground sale and leaseback.

The Trust board will give an update on progress so far and put forward plans for the coming year. How are we going to raise money and what are we going to do with it? Will we invest in the youth scheme? Will we try to buy the ground back? We already have a proposal from a member as to how we could raise the money but as a truly democratic organisation, the Trust board does not decide these things, the membership does. So come along, bring your friends and family and have your say. If enough people feel the same way then by joining together perhaps the Trust can make a real difference at our club.

If you have any questions you want to ask or a specific issue that you want to raise at the meeting you can contact us by e-mail, post or telephone. All contact details have been included on the reverse of this newsletter.

## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

Never mind this year's General Election, all the important issues will be decided in April at a special meeting where the Clarets Trust board will be elected. Any member can stand as a candidate. All you need is two other members - one to propose you and another to second you.



Not been involved so far? Think no-one will know you? No problem. All you need to do is write a short manifesto (in no more than 100 words) to tell everyone why you should be involved. Either download the form from our website or request one by post (contact details are overleaf.) The next newsletter will include all the manifestos and details on how to vote. A strong Trust needs a strong board and that means more members getting involved.

## AN AUDIENCE WITH . . .

Burnley manager Steve Cotterill has agreed to spend an evening with the Trust. You will be able to hear him speak about current footballing issues with a couple of well-known ex-Clarets.



We will include full details in the next newsletter but the event is likely to take place towards the end of April. This is a major coup as due to difficulties at previous forums he has been reluctant to appear at such events. It could be your only chance to hear him speak so make the most of it.

## AROUND THE TRUSTS

The wonderful performance by Exeter City at Old Trafford has put Trusts firmly into the spotlight. It is a great example of what can be achieved if supporters work together. They have turned a club around from financial crisis and administration just over a year ago and deserve every bit of luck they got from the draw. York City have recently received a loan from the Football Foundation to buy back Bootham Crescent. They have now secured their future at the ground until such a time that they can get plans approved for a new ground. This must be done within the next ten years. Meanwhile RUST, the Rotherham United Supporters Trust have formed a consortium of fans that have negotiated the takeover of the club. Up and down the country Trusts are making progress but it does all take time and at the Clarets Trust we are still in our infancy.

## Supporters Direct

Anyone wanting more information about the Supporters Trust movement can visit the Supporters Direct website ([www.supporters-direct.org](http://www.supporters-direct.org)) or contact them on 0870 1600 123 to receive their regular, informative magazine.

## CLARETS TRUST BEER & BEER FESTIVAL

We had planned to run a beer festival in conjunction with Burnley Football Club over the Easter weekend and during the Burnley Blues Festival but this has not proved possible so we will be reverting to Plan A. Look for details of the First Clarets Trust Burnley Beer Festival at the end of the season! In the meantime we are starting discussions with a brewery with a view to producing a Clarets Trust beer. We've had a couple of good suggestions for a name but we would like the members to choose one so e-mail or post your suggestions to the Trust and you never know you may get to pull the first pint!

## TOUR DE CLARET

The first cyclists' meeting was held on the 15th January. Steve is now looking for sponsors so be warned! The trip starts on the 23rd April from Reims and the cyclists will travel over 500 miles back to Burnley, hopefully in time for the last home game of the season.

## THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET MORE INVOLVED

As the Trust grows so does the need for additional support. We have a dedicated few working very hard to keep things moving forward. However, we always need more help and whether you only have an hour a week and live hundreds of miles away or are available full-time in Burnley we can use the help so please don't be shy and get in touch. We also won't force you to do anything you don't want to. We're always more than happy to hear from you, so why wait? (details are at the bottom of this page.)

The steering group meet every two weeks either on a Monday night in the Bob Lord stand or on a Saturday at 11.30 before a home game. The next meeting is the Open Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February in the Foundation Bar after the Leeds United game.

**Name: Darren Irvine (age 37)**  
**Position: Steering Group Member**



**Background?** Born in Burnley and have lived most of my life in Worsthorne. Married to Sarah for 11 years, during which time she has blessed me with two boys - William (8) and George (3). Been a Claret all my life and I'm making sure that the kids follow in my footsteps.

**Most tenuous link to fame?** I used to babysit for Billy Hamilton's daughter.

**First Burnley game?** I honestly can't remember a specific game, although I had a season ticket from around 1975.

**Vintage Claret?** Harry Potts (he should have been knighted.)

**What's so good about the Trust?** The fans have finally got a chance to have a voice and hopefully have a say in the future of the club for our grandchildren.

## ----- STOP PRESS -----



Badges of the Clarets Trust logo will be available for only £2 in the near future. They will be on sale at all meetings and from any of the Trust board at matches.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

At the turn of the year, just four months into the embryonic life of Clarets Trust, over 350 of us had become paid-up members. As expected, there is strong representation from the local area (40% of members live in the 'BB' postcode area) but we also have members from all over the UK, as well as a handful of members from overseas. The men are winning the battle of the sexes with just over 80%, although the number of female members is encouraging. Almost one in ten of our members is under 16, which is very promising for the future.

Whilst everyone has been encouraged by progress so far, we know that we need to do even more to ensure that all Burnley fans are aware of the Trust and the important work that we are doing. This is where you can help out. Tell all your family and friends as well as mentioning the Trust to the people who you see when you're at the match.

Membership forms can be downloaded from the Clarets Trust website as well as being available at Burnley Football Club (Reception and Ticket Office) and also at the Burnley Express offices in the centre of town – pass one on today!

### TRUST CONTACT DETAILS:

Website: [www.claretstrust.co.uk](http://www.claretstrust.co.uk)

General Enquiries: [info@claretstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@claretstrust.co.uk)

Chair - Steve Corrigan

e-mail: [chair@claretstrust.co.uk](mailto:chair@claretstrust.co.uk)

Tel: 01422 842328 (Home)

Membership Secretary - Dave Roberts

e-mail: [membership@claretstrust.co.uk](mailto:membership@claretstrust.co.uk)

Treasurer - Tony Scholes

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