

WELCOME TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

This is the first of what will hopefully be many Clarets Trust Newsletters, in which we will be ensuring that all our members are kept up to date with progress. It's now just over two months since the highly successful launch and the steering group has been hard at work getting the foundations in place. We are meeting every two weeks and planning how we intend to progress over the next twelve months. Over 250 members have now joined, and many of you will have seen representatives distributing forms before the Ipswich game and also on the coaches back from Leeds. People are now starting to get the message of what Trusts are all about.



Recent events at Wrexham and even Manchester United serve to drive home the message that like York, Brighton and many others before, no club is safe from the property developers and opportunists. By putting at least a little bit of the club in supporters' hands we would hope to be in a position to prevent that happening at Burnley.

I stress that at Burnley we are very lucky in having a dedicated supporter as chairman in Barry Kilby and as such it's not likely to happen in the foreseeable future. Owning part of the club does give the Trust a voice within the club and allows any member to be heard. Read on to find out what we are doing.

Up the Clarets!

Steve

CLARETS TRUST AT THE RACES



Place your bets! The Trust are off to the races the night before the home game against Millwall. It all starts at 7.15pm in the Foundation Bar on Friday 26th November with Jeff Brown as Steward of the course and a licensed bar all evening. Entry is free for everyone, so remember to tell your family and friends! All eight horses will be auctioned for the last race, and the winning owner will scoop a jackpot prize. Bets are available on all races so come on down and get the weekend off to a winning start.

For those that haven't been to a Race Night before there is normally a video presentation at the start of the evening to explain how it all works. It is fairly simple. This is our first fundraising event since the launch and we are looking to make it a big success.

ONE SMALL STEP



The Trust has written to the club in order to apply to buy our first £200 share. This would make every member, in effect, a part-shareholder in the club. We decided upon the symbol of buying one share as our 'first step' and hope to rapidly add more as funds are raised. It will also establish an agreement with the club that we are able to purchase available shares in the future.

TOUR DE CLARET '05

Chris Gibson, Catering Manager at Burnley Football Club, has once again organised a cycle ride. This time the event will be raising much-needed money for Alastair Campbell's preferred charity, Leukaemia Research, as well as the Football Futures fund for the club. Chair Steve Corrigan has agreed to represent the Trust. 2BR will be providing daily coverage and Alastair Campbell will hopefully be riding at least part of the way.



The trip starts in Reims, North-East of Paris, in honour of the Clarets game there 45 years ago and will cover the 500 miles to Turf Moor where there will be a celebratory lap of honour before the final home game of the season. Along the way it is hoped the cyclists will meet up with several supporters groups including the London Clarets and West Midlands Clarets. If you see Steve with a sponsorship form in the coming months you will know why!

MINE'S A PINT . . . OF REAL ALE

Preliminary discussions have now taken place and with the support of Burnley Football Club and the East Lancashire branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) we are hoping to organise a beer festival to take place at Burnley Football Club next year.



Watch out for the announcement of more details for this event in the near future.

NW TRUSTS TO MEET AT TURF MOOR

On Thursday 2nd December, the North West Trusts will be holding their regional meeting at Turf Moor. It is an excellent opportunity for Trusts as diverse as Shareholders United with over 12,000 members and Chorley with 60 members (half their home gate) to get together to discuss issues, problems, ideas and good practices. Of course we are keen to learn more about how other Trusts have excelled, as well as being made aware of potential pitfalls. This meeting follows on from a successful event at Rochdale earlier in the season.

Supporters Direct

SUPPORTERS DIRECT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Chair Steve Corrigan attended the conference with representatives of over 60 other Trusts. It included a video presentation from Gordon Brown, an avid Raith Rovers fan, where he promised to look favourably on Trusts with regard to taxation. Hopefully this means we will, like charities, be able to take advantage of Gift Aid. Sir Brian Mawhinney from the Football League spoke about the progress they have made since the ITV Digital fiasco.

Mick McGuire from the PFA spoke about their role in keeping clubs afloat and not blaming players for the bad financial dealings of the clubs. David Conn, The Independent journalist launched his new book and there were several useful workshops on how to run Trusts as well as the chance to exchange views and information with other Trusts.

A full review of the conference will be available to read on our website (www.claretstrust.co.uk) soon.

THE STEERING GROUP: KEEPING UP THE GOOD WORK

The steering group meet every two weeks, either on a Monday night in the Bob Lord stand or on a Saturday at 11:30am before a home game. We are always looking for more help. A few dedicated fans can only achieve so much but even if you only have a couple of hours a week but want to get involved please get in touch. The next meeting is Monday 22nd November at 7pm in the Bob Lord stand. As the Trust is growing so is the need for additional support. We have a dedicated select few working very hard to keep things moving forward. We always need more support and so 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 don't be shy please get in touch. We will also ensure that you only get involved in areas that you feel are appropriate for you.

Name: Steve Corrigan (age 39)
(on the right of the picture below!)
Position: Chair



Background? Born in Colne, brought up in Fence. Work in IT. Lived in London for 13 years, the latter half of which I was involved with the London Clarets. Joined committee as magazine editor, before taking over as chairman for three years. Returned North to live in Hebden Bridge and to work in Manchester in 2002 and married fellow London Claret Nic this summer at Gawthorpe.

Most tenuous link to fame? Gerry Rafferty (of Baker St. fame) is my 2nd cousin (I've never met him)

First Burnley game? It was a friend's birthday some time in the early 70's and they won 3-0 against Man City. (Looking up the date it was 29th Sept 1973).

Vintage Claret? Billy Hamilton

What's so good about the Trust? Fans have always complained that they aren't taken seriously. This a great opportunity to seize the day and show that supporters have something more tangible to offer.

Name : Dave Roberts (age 32)
Position: Membership Secretary



Background? Born in Burnley, and grew up in Barnoldswick. After leaving school I worked my way West, via Salford for three years, and then Liverpool for the next six years. Alas, America wasn't to be my next move, and so I returned to East Lancashire in late 1999. I have now worked for 11 years in the Marketing industry.

Most tenuous link to fame? Once appeared on the radio version of Mike Read's 'Pop Quiz'

First Burnley game? vs. Liverpool @ Anfield (February 1983 - Milk Cup SF)

Vintage Claret? I would have to choose John Haworth, who managed the Clarets to victory in the FA Cup in 1914, and also managed the championship winning side of 1920/1, incorporating our record-breaking 30 match unbeaten run. Truly inspirational.

What's so good about the Trust? It gives every fan the chance to own a piece of the club, secure it's long term future and have a voice.

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