



TRUST NEWS

Newport County AFC Supporters' Trust newsletter

• January 2019



The ways in which you can help the Trust and the Club

THE Newport County AFC Supporters' Trust is one of more than 140 Supporters' Trusts that exist under the national umbrella of Supporters' Direct.

The Trust was originally formed in 2001, and took a controlling stake in the football club in October 2015 following a community share issue which saw County supporters raise a magnificent £236,000 in just a month. Since then, Newport County AFC has been a supporter-owned club.

The Supporters' Trust Board currently consists of seven elected and two co-opted directors.

As the Trust is the majority shareholder in the club, all nine Trust directors are also registered with the Football League as directors of the club.

Your Trust/Club elected di-

rectors are: Gavin Foxall, Shaun Johnson, Mike Everett, Ryan Courtney, Colin Faulkner, Bob Herrin and Kevin Ward. The co-opted directors are Mark Crook and Peter Madigan.

More details about the Trust here: www.ncafctrust.org

There are a variety of ways in which County supporters can help the Trust.

The more money raised by the Trust, the bigger the budget available for the manager every season.

Additional funds already raised this season through membership upgrades and profits from Bar Amber @ The Ivy Bush meant the Trust was able to fund, along with matched funding from individual directors, the return of former captain Joss Labadie to the club.

BECOME A MEMBER: A new tiered system of Trust membership has been introduced.

This is explained in more detail in the table above.

Bronze: £5 a month; Silver: £10 a month; Gold: £20 a month; Platinum: £50+ a month. There is also a membership package for Ex-Pat supporters at £25 a month. Corporate membership is available at £1,000 a year or £600 for six months.

More details here www.ncafctrust.org/join

EASYFUNDRAISING: Join easyfundraising and you can collect free donations for the Trust (and therefore the Club) every time you buy something online.

It won't cost you a penny extra. Just start your online shopping

first at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ncafctrust/, then shop as normal.

Retailers will then make a small donation to say 'thank you'.

There are more than 3,200 retailers to choose from and so far this scheme has raised almost £18,500 for the Trust.

For more information, contact Andrew Perry here: easytrust1@hotmail.com

VOLUNTEER: The Trust and the Club appreciates the many outstanding volunteers who give up their time to help in a variety of ways. If you have the time and skills you think could benefit the club, then please email info@ncafctrust.org Please do not use the Trust email to make enquiries about Club-related issues.

Accountancy adds up to new members

OUR newest Trust corporate member is Advantage Accountancy & Advisory Ltd.

The firm was established in 2010 by lifelong County supporter Mark Hislop and his fellow founding director Steve Bickerton.

The business is based in Cathedral Road, Cardiff, and provides a range of accounting and tax services to a wide range of businesses from nimble technology start-ups to established multi-million pound turnover companies. There are two things certain in life - tax and supporting County will never be predictable!

Specialist advice is provided to businesses looking to grow through acquisition or requiring funding to expand premises, acquire machinery or increase its headcount.

When the time comes to retire a full service to value and prepare businesses for sale is available.

Mark was introduced to the life of a County supporter on November 28, 1972 - a 1-0 defeat home to Hereford and has seen many ups and downs.

He is delighted that the new Corporate Trust Membership provides the opportunity to support County and play a part in helping them add the points to push towards promotion.



County striker Pdraig Amond presents Mark Hislop, founder of Advantage Accountancy, with a signed shirt

The simple steps to renew Trust memberships...

AROUND 300 annual memberships are due to expire during January.

To remain a Trust member you need to join one of the new tiered monthly membership plans.

To renew your Trust membership online, follow these six easy steps:

● **Go to Trust website ncafctrust.org and log in.**

● **Go to 'Change Details', check your details, update and confirm, return to your account screen.**

● **Click 'Change Membership', select membership type and payment type, save changes.**

● **Input Sort Code and Account Number, ensure "Town or City" is completed, click 'Set up Direct Debit'. (Note: this will appear on your statements as Go Cardless)**

● **Check details are correct (Note: confirming details will activate a payment, however the money may not leave for your bank for 10 working days). Payments will leave your account on the same day each month from the day you set up**

● **You are now a Trust Member on one of the new plans. Check your account at any time by following stage 1. Enjoy your benefits!**

Earlier this month, Trust directors and volunteers manned telephones at the club offices calling as many supporters with memberships due to expire this month as possible to help them switch to the new scheme.

Membership renewals can be paid a year in advance if supporters wish.

Cash payments can be taken in the club shop in Kingsway or in the marquee at Rodney Parade on match days.

Supporters who do not wish to renew their memberships online can complete a membership form and return it to the Trust (again, at the club shop or in the marquee), and complete a standing order form and take it to their bank's local branch.

Both forms are available at www.ncafctrust.org/documents/ under 'Trust Forms'.

Standing orders can also be set up via online banking.

Simply email info@ncafctrust.org for more details.

Family memberships no longer exist. If supporters have such a membership and it is due for renewal, one person can retain the membership number but others in the group will need to join as individual members.

Junior members, if they are of the appropriate age, can now join Clwb Spytty. Membership includes priority tickets for cup matches. Details can be found here: <https://www.newport-county.co.uk/news/2018/september/clwb-spytty-launched/>

Finally, supporters renewing their memberships or joining the Trust ahead of the FA Cup fourth round should be aware that if they cancel their memberships before the end of this season they will not be eligible for priority tickets if they then re-join during a cup run next season.

Notes from December Trust Board meeting

THE Trust Board met for its last meeting of 2018 on December 13 at Merlin House on the Langstone Business Park. The following are redacted notes from the meeting, published on the Trust website on January 4.

ATTENDEES: Shaun Johnson (Chair) (SJ), Mark Crook (MC), Colin Faulkner (CF), Bob Herrin (BH), Gavin Foxall (GF), Peter Madigan (PM), Ryan Courtney (RC), Guy Price (GP), Kevin Ward (KW), Nigel Stephenson (NS), Alex Eagle (AE) (part)

APOLOGIES: Mike Everett (ME)

1.COMMERCIAL UPDATE

1.1 AE gave a presentation on progress since his appointment as Commercial Manager

1.2 Considerable progress had been made around match sponsorships and other revenue generators.

1.3 Match sponsorship rate for the Leicester FA Cup match was discussed, with the consensus being that AE should aim for a price reflective of Premier League opposition.

1.4 LED advertising boards for the Leicester match – AE to benchmark against other League Two clubs who have had a match against Premier League opposition broadcast live on BBC1.

1.5 KW to pass on contact details for the Mercure Chartist Hotel developers to AE.

2.APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The minutes of the Trust Board meeting held on November 15, 2018, were approved as an accurate record.

2.2 The following points were made on matters arising: GP to provide minutes of all meetings between the club and RP/WRU; GF suggested a separate accounts line for retail, so we can better understand the full costs and the impact of Kingsway club shop revenues.

3.FINANCE

3.1 NS to send out management accounts to Board members tomorrow.

3.2 A combination of prize money from the Checkatrade Trophy, FA Cup and Trust/director donations

towards the Joss Labadie signing contributed to a profit in November compared to a forecast loss. Further monies are still to come from the FA Cup.

3.3 Cashflow forecast continues to be managed carefully by the finance team with the additional income from the FA Cup obviously helping the position. However, it still needs careful handling due to the risk associated with organisations being closed over the holiday period.

3.4 The SCMP return shows sufficient headroom.

4.SAFEGUARDING

4.1 GP reported that work was now complete on who needed DBS checks and he will provide an estimate of the total cost. Once all checks are complete, the club will have a single central record ready to be uploaded to the EFL. We have a deadline of January 30 for this.

4.2 BH said we were in the process of updating safeguarding policies. GF suggested BH, CF and GP agree new policies and bring to the next Board meeting for approval.

5.EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

5.1 KW had investigated a complaint made by a supporter concerning alleged inappropriate/bullying behaviour by other County supporters at a recent match. A statement is to be published in the next home programme and on the club website. The complainant is satisfied with this approach.

6.LEICESTER CITY FA CUP MATCH

6.1 GP reported on a variety of issues around the January 6 cup tie and shared the approach covered in his headline plan.

6.2 Commercial – this was dealt with during AE's presentation.

6.3 Key stakeholders – Rodney Parade and the BBC.

6.4 Communications – a statement regarding ticket prices and priority sales would go out following agreement by the Board.

6.5 Resources – we need to ensure we have adequate resources to cover ticket sales and incoming calls.

6.6 Ticket priorities – season ticket holders (2 tickets), Trust members (1),

shareholders (1) and Clwb Spytty members (1 U16 + 1 adult) were first priority, followed by MK Dons ticket holders, followed by general sale. Sales windows were agreed but would be subject to review.

6.7 It was agreed that, if necessary, we would look at bringing in paid casual staff to deal with ticket sales and the checking of Trust memberships.

6.8 After some discussion, it was agreed that ticket prices should be the same as for last season's Tottenham match.

6.9 It was agreed that, unless Leicester requested more tickets and were willing to provide financial input to additional seating, the ground capacity would remain at 6,865 including a 15% allocation to Leicester.

7.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Staffing – Ben Catton has started a three-month interim contract as Media Officer following Hayley Ford's departure while the recruitment process for Media Manager takes place. Ethan Foster had resigned and GP was advertising immediately for a new Club Secretary/ Head of Operations.

7.2 Christmas Party – GF emphasised the importance of as many directors as possible attending this event. KW gave his apologies due to family commitments.

7.3 Former Bar Amber (Spytty) – GF reported a great deal of work had taken place to restore the building as the first team's training base. The roof, electrics and showers were now complete, largely via grace and favour arrangements. However, it was likely a financial contribution from the Trust would be needed to complete the work.

7.4 Academy – GF confirmed the financial 'deep dive' had been completed and would be shared with the full Board early in the new year after PM had looked through it.

7.5 Media – SJ due to meet Andrew Penman from the South Wales Argus for an interview about the Trust, the new membership tiers, and the positive impact on funds already being seen.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 17, 2019, 6pm at Merlin House.