



Newsletter July 2005

New Board Sets Priorities

The new Board of the Trust was elected at the Annual General Meeting held at the Dubrovnik Hotel on 14th April 2005. It has met subsequently to set priorities and establish roles.

The priorities are:

- **Communication;**
- **Youth and Community Development;**
- **Fundraising.**

The roles and responsibilities are:

Phillip Marshall	Chair
Mike Thompson	Vice-Chair
Richard Wardell	Honorary Secretary/ Membership
Alan Flood	Interim Treasurer/ Webmaster
Paul Spivey	Honorary Treasurer
Peter Truman	Public Relations
Cath Tomlinson	Fundraising
Alan Carling	Newsletter Editor/ Comm. Development

CONTACT US

AT: Bradford City Supporters' Trust
PO Box 497
Wakefield
WF1 9AU

OR: contact@bcst.co.uk

The email that does what it says on the tin

MAN OF THE MATCH PRIZE DRAW

- don't miss our special page 4 offer !!

A Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter from the new Board of the Bradford City Supporters' Trust. I am extremely honoured to have been elected to serve on the Board and to be confirmed as Chair. I have been Vice-Chair of the Trust since its formation and served under Chris Hawkrigde and Mark Boocock as former Chairs. The supporters of Bradford City owe a great deal to Chris for the sterling work he put into the formation of the Trust and to Mark for the significant fundraising efforts whilst he was Chair. It would be wrong of me not to acknowledge both their efforts.

Dubrovnik AGM

I was delighted that the recent AGM was a well-attended event, with **David Wetherall** and **Ben Muirhead** at a Fans Forum, and Director Steve Longbottom also with us. It is vital that the Trust is transparent and open in all its dealings, so I was particularly pleased to see the accounts approved, given the significant monies we have handled over the last year. A great deal of credit must go to our Treasurer Alan Flood. It has been agreed that Paul Spivey will take over as Treasurer after the reports are finalized for year ending 31 May 2005.

Many thanks to Margaret Hainsworth

I was, however, saddened to see Margaret Hainsworth step down as Membership Secretary. Very much a 'back-room' worker, Margaret provided a solid foundation for the Trust to build upon, because without members we are nothing. She was always willing to provide sensible and practical help and was a great listener. Thank you, Margaret, for all your brilliant efforts.

New Board

The Board has been strengthened with 8 elected members now in post to share the load, with more potential co-opted members waiting in the wings to join. I welcome Mike Thompson, Alan Carling, Richard Wardell, Alan Flood, Cath Tomlinson, Paul Spivey and Peter Truman, with their roles and responsibilities outlined above. See below for **OPEN MEETING DATES** of the Board.

Ben Muirhead Sponsorship renewed

I am delighted to announce that for the 2005/6 season we have already agreed to sponsor Ben Muirhead. You will recall that Ben was signed for the Club on loan as a direct result of monies raised by the Supporters' Trust.

Supporting Youth Development

It gave me great pleasure to hand a cheque to the Club for £2,577 at the recent Bradford City Sponsors evening. This is the first of many investments to help with the Youth set-up at the Club that I hope we can make over the next 3 years, as one of our key priorities – more details below.

Regular Contact Meetings with the Club

The Trust have agreed to meet the Club on a regular basis and we will feedback key issues to you, starting in the adjacent column.* This gives us a fantastic opportunity to help the Bantams' Board understand the needs and priorities of fans in general and, more importantly, to work with them in making real progress on key issues such as pricing and packaging of tickets. We want:

- attendance to become more affordable;
- facilities available to fans on match days to make the whole experience more enjoyable;
- the role of the club developed in the community as a key part of what makes Bradford a better place to live in.

These are our first thoughts, but what are the things that really matter to **you**? Apart from the obvious - give us a great team to watch every week - what are the burning issues that you want us to put to the Board? Contact us by email or letter at the addresses above, and we'll get your message through to the Club.

... and with the Trust movement elsewhere

We belong to the Yorkshire and North East Supporters' Trusts Association and I attended their inaugural meeting at Elland Road recently. This helped the learning process and the sharing of information with other Trusts in our Region. A representative was present from Supporters Direct who was also a member of Shareholders United at Manchester United - this gave a great insight to all present on the Glazer issue at that Club.

Help us support City by maintaining your membership of the Trust, and please encourage others to do the same - **there's an important job for all of us to do together.**

City till I die!

Phill Marshall

Chair, Bradford City Supporters' Trust

* Bradford City Independent Supporters' Club also attend these meetings.

Feedback from the Club

The Club has been on the back foot, fighting for survival, but there are real signs now that attention is returning to the fans' welfare, with enthusiastic staff now able to make it happen.

These are some of the ideas being discussed seriously for next season and beyond:

- Better pricing for juniors and students;
- Birthday scheme for children of all ages;
- Trials of standing in seated areas;
- Changing the beer delivery system (intravenous?);
- Dedicated sweet shop for kids;
- 'Sponsor a goal' plan;
- **Open Day – Sunday July 17;**
- Special-rate Ticket packages as an ideal gift for exile fans;
- Discounts on the banqueting facilities for away fans;
- Bradford City TV on early at the ground.

We were asked to pass on two specific requests:

Accommodation for the Youth Team

If you can offer accommodation to members of the Youth Team, please ring:

Wendy Kestin at Valley Parade.

Don't delay, phone straightaway!

Handy with the paintbrush and hammer?

The Club is looking for volunteers to help with repairs and maintenance around the ground.

If you have the time and the skills, contact:

Alan Gilliver at Valley Parade

Don't hang about, get your spanner out!

... and we raised the issue of shares:

- What's happened to the shares in the old club?
- What's happening about shares in the new one?

A Year We Never Want to See Again!

The last 12 months of the life of a City fan can be categorised into three sections: (1) Distraught, (2) Dismay and (3) Hope.

Our club was in financial meltdown and needed a substantial cash injection. The fans were charged with the task of raising what appeared at the time to be an almost impossible money target to give the club any chance of survival. This became an all-consuming mission to fans, businesses and non-fans alike. The Trust became the vehicle to encourage, to publicise and to co-ordinate the flood of activity. We had to manage the massive and sudden influx of a huge amount of money. Then came the fateful day when (2) DISMAY set in. Despite raising the amount demanded by the Administrators, the Club was within minutes of closing - **FOREVER**.

Thankfully this was narrowly avoided by the emergence of the 'Steering Committee'. And Julian Rhodes had been encouraged and overwhelmed by the strength of support shown. Dismay slowly turned into (3) HOPE and a new **BRADFORD CITY** kicked off the season against all expectations. The Trust can quite rightly be proud of the part it played, alongside the massive help of supporters, *The Telegraph and Argus* and the people of Bradford and beyond, in helping to secure the future of our Football club.

Communications couldn't be a priority while survival was at stake. With our members' patience and support, we've now come through the crisis. New members have joined the Board at the AGM with a broad range of expertise. This has given us renewed energy for the future, and this issue of the newsletter is the first tangible evidence. We aim to become an important channel of information **in both directions** between the Club and the fans.

Peter Truman

The View from the Stand

A Midland Roadie writes in, objecting to a permanent move from the 'best seats' in VP to make way for visiting fans, so that the kop can migrate to TLD. He fears crowd trouble, old-fashioned behaviour and bad vibes in general.

We've passed on his view. What's yours?

Dates for your Diary

The Trust Board meets monthly, and you can raise issues with us at any time.

We have also planned two OPEN MEETINGS during the year:

- Wednesday 17th. August 2005
- AGM: Sunday 18th. December 2005

Both at the **Dubrovnik Hotel**, 6.00-8.00 p.m.

See you there, or be square!

Supporting your Trust

I originally read about BCST on the excellent www.boyfrombrazil.co.uk website. After joining the Trust in April 2004, I decided that I wanted to do my 'bit' for saving Bradford City Football Club. I organised and participated in a sponsored ground hop whereby half-a-dozen Bradford City supporters travelled in pairs to see how many sporting grounds they could visit in an 8-hour period. We all started from Valley Parade and concluded our travels there too. After taking in the delights of such football grounds as Leek Town and Atherton Laburnum Rovers we managed to raise in excess of £500 between us. Special thanks to Andrew Ashcroft and Stephen Onions for their support.

I also sold raffle tickets at the Goldsborough pub in Bradford prior to and during the England v. France Euro 2004 match. Thanks to the landlord for allowing me to do this. A couple of us conducted a bucket collection at Odsal during a Bulls v. Huddersfield Giants game, which raised over £100. Cheers to Alan Flood for his support on this one!

The Bradford City Supporters Trust is extremely grateful to everyone who donated money, time and effort during the summer of 2004. If you have any more fundraising ideas, please contact the Trust. **Bradford City Football Club still need money and every penny will go towards sustaining the long term future of OUR beloved football club.**

Richard Wardell

Talking Point

Does a true fan ever enjoy the victory of another club, as opposed to its defeat (e.g. Liverpool in Europe)?

BCST - In Europe

The Bradford City Supporters Trust who were instrumental in focusing fans fund-raising activities during the crisis of Summer 2004 are again in action - but this time it's not the survival of the club that is at stake - but Youth player development.

We are proud to announce that our donation of £2577.00 goes to the club for the sole purpose of helping to fund the Youth Team's European Tour.

Chair of the Trust, Phill Marshall, said:

It's well documented that Bradford City has not devoted enough energy in the past in developing young local talent. However I am pleased to report that the new directors are particularly aware, as are lots of other clubs, that these young players will form the backbone, and even perhaps the survival, of many non-Premiership clubs in the future.

The money donated will also go to providing football kits for these young players.

Club Director, David Bosomworth, said:

I am overwhelmed and delighted that BCST has been able to help the club in this way - we are striving to build the future of the club on a sound foundation and at the very heart of this policy is the fundamental need to develop our own young talent for the future good of the club and the City as a whole.

Thanks, Dave, and the best of luck to the lads on tour.

Write-In Mega-Offer

I am offering a small prize, yet to be negotiated with the Treasurer, for the best newsletter contribution from a member (not on the Trust Board).

So why not write in with your moans, gripes, tales of heroism or human interest, historical anecdotes, things the Trust should do, or things we all should know

contact@bcst.co.uk

The email that does what it says on the tin

Alan Carling, Editor, 9/7/05.

Yes !!

At Last !!!

It's our PRIZE DRAW !!!!

Here's what you get to do:

- Attend the Nottingham Forest Home Game on Saturday 6th. May 2006 for *FREE*;
- With 3 friends for *FREE*;
- In plush Sunwin Seats;

AND

- Present the *Man of the Match* award;

HAVING

- Dined in the Banqueting Suite at a Pre-Match 4-course Silver Service meal with your 3 friends;

WITH


- A Champagne Reception, plus
- An Exclusive Gift from the Club;

NOT TO MENTION

- *FREE* Half-time Tea and Coffee, plus
- A Complimentary Matchday Programme.

And here's what you have to do to get it:

- **GO** to the BCST website, **www.bcst.co.uk**;
- **OR** email an entry to **contact@bcst.co.uk** with the information below;
- **OR** send in the form below to:
Bradford City Supporters' Trust
PO Box 497
Wakefield
WF1 9AU.

 **MAN OF THE MATCH** Prize Draw
Entry Form

Name: _____

BCST Membership No.: _____

Daytime Tel. No.: _____

Address/email: _____

I am over 16, and available on Match Day 6/5/06.
I am not a Club Director or BCST Board Member

THE PRIZE IS NOT TRANSFERABLE