



# IN COD WE TRUST

## The GTST Newsletter

Issue 6

March 2007

## MEMBERS HAVE THEIR SAY

In the last GTST newsletter, we invited you to have your say on how we should invest the money the Trust raises. Well, the results of the questionnaire are now in and the percentage of the vote in favour of each investment option is as follows:

Investment in the GTFC youth system	51%
Investment in GTFC shares	24%
Investment in GTFC via sponsorship	19%
Continue to help pay off the tax debt	6%

The GTST Board will now be guided by these results. Having consulted with Neil Woods, we made our first post questionnaire investment in the GTFC youth system by purchasing a set of twenty rain jackets for the lads and with the weather being what it is in this country, they are certain to get plenty of use out of them! We have also entered a team in the Youth Development Golf Day, which will be taking place on Friday 25th May. Please see page three for further details. We now plan to consult with Neil again to see what else we can do for the youth system.

We have now purchased another one thousand GTFC shares, which satisfies both our commitment to invest in shares and to continue to make a contribution towards paying off the tax debt. This brings our total shareholding in Grimsby Town Football Club to 21,000 shares.

In terms of sponsorship, following the departure of Ricky Ravenhill to Darlington earlier this year, we are now the shirt sponsors of promising young striker Andy Taylor and we hope that he will go on to fulfil his massive potential despite the "curse" of GTST sponsorship. See page two for details of how you could win Andy's signed shirt and receive it from the man himself on the hallowed turf of Blundell Park.

We will also be sponsoring the matchball for the Lincoln City game on Saturday 28th April. Two pairs of

executive tickets for the game will be auctioned off on eBay, with a starting price of £75 a pair. The seven-day auction will commence on Monday 2nd April. There will be a link to the auction on the GTST website.

In addition, we are planning to introduce an annual draw, whereby one lucky junior Trust member will win the chance to be a GTFC mascot. This will be part of a revised junior membership package, which will be launched later this year. Given that our junior membership base is currently pretty small, the GTST Board is looking to put together a package which will be attractive to young Mariners fans, so if you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see included in the package, please let us know. Bear in mind that we need to work to a tight budget, given that junior membership costs only £5 a year.

## GTST AGM

The Trust's AGM took place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. There was a small turn-out for the meeting, although the attendance wasn't exactly helped by the meeting taking place just after a disappointing 2-0 defeat at the hands of Notts County.

Unfortunately there were no new applicants for the GTST Board this year, but the Chairman, Vice Chair and Secretary all stepped down by rotation according to the rules, and were then duly re-elected. There then followed an interesting presentation about the new Mariners Account by Tim from the Derbyshire.

The GTST Board now consists of Dave Otter (Chairman), Dean Wright (Vice Chair), Rachel Branson (Secretary), Dave Roberts (Treasurer), Gill Appleyard, Emma Blackbourn, Ed Blackbourn, Bev Lewis and Matt Lewis.

Although the next AGM will not be for another seven months, if you are interested in getting involved at Board level, please let us know, as new members can be co-opted onto the Board between AGMs.

# WIN THE SHIRT OFF ANDY TAYLOR'S BACK!

As reported on page one, GTST is now the shirt sponsor of Andy Taylor, following the departure of Ricky Ravenhill. As a thank you to our members for their continued support, we would like to offer you the chance to receive Andy's signed shirt from him on the pitch before a match at Blundell Park. The shirt will then be yours to keep.

To enter the competition, all you need to do is email us at [enquiries@gtst.net](mailto:enquiries@gtst.net), giving your name, membership number (if known), and contact details. Please put "Signed Shirt Comp" in the subject line. Alternatively you can ring our answering service on 0870 4711827 and leave your details. All entries received by Sunday 15th April will go into the draw, with the presentation hopefully taking place at either the Barnet or Lincoln game. If you are unable to attend either of these games, you can always nominate someone else to receive the shirt on your behalf.

## THE GREAT COATES STADIUM—OVER THE FIRST HURDLE

Following the recent Planning Committee meeting at the Town Hall, the Club has now taken a vital step towards the move to a new stadium and the supporters deserve a great deal of credit for their part in a successful outcome. Having completed forms in their thousands and lobbied their local MPs to great effect, hundreds of enthusiastic Mariners fans turned out at the Town Hall in spite of the terrible run of results at the time, totally outnumbering the opposition, and left the Committee in no doubt that there is in reality only a small minority of the local public against the building of the new stadium at Great Coates.

Excellent presentations to the Committee by John Fenty, Canon Hunter, Oliver Cowling and our own

Trust chairman Dave Otter also helped the Committee to make the only sensible decision possible. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, here is a transcript of Dave's presentation to the Planning Committee.

"Good evening, my name is Dave Otter. I speak to you not only as the Chairman of Grimsby Town Supporters' Trust (which represents the fans of the Club) but also as someone who is proud to have been born and bred in the town and who cares deeply about the future of North East Lincolnshire and the quality of life of its residents.

In a footballing sense there can be little argument with the application that you are considering. After over 40 years of watching the Mariners playing at Blundell Park I have fond memories of, and great affection for, the current home of Grimsby Town Football Club. My father used to sit me on his pushbike all those years ago and cycle to the ground. I, in turn, made the fortnightly pilgrimage with my children. The place holds fantastic memories - particularly the days of Lawrie McMenemy, George Kerr and, more recently, Alan Buckley.

That does not detract, however, from reality. Blundell Park is no longer fit for purpose and that fact will never change whatever efforts are made to paper over the cracks. The facilities are antiquated and inadequate and do not, in any way, meet the requirements of a 21st century football club. Parking is a nightmare for fans and residents alike and no amount of redevelopment of current facilities will ever change that.

This application will enable the Club to offer better facilities, which will inevitably result in higher attendances and the ability to attract better players to the Club. It will also provide the opportunity for the Club to benefit from income streams for 365 days a year rather than the primarily football related income the club currently receives.

In short, it will enable the Club to survive without relying on the generosity of wealthy benefactors as is the case at the moment.

But this application is about so much more than a new stadium.

It offers the possibility of significant inward investment and a retail development which may just persuade people to shop in NE Lincolnshire rather than travelling down the A180 to Meadowhall or Doncaster.



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CORPORATE MEMBER OF GTST

It offers the promise of hundreds of full and part-time jobs within both the stadium and the retail development.

It offers a real opportunity for enterprise and regeneration which will complement and enhance the Council's excellent work in securing Local Enterprise Growth Initiative funding.

It offers facilities that can only benefit and enhance the quality of life of local people.

It will provide a fantastic gateway to Grimsby.

It offers something we can all be proud of.

Even if you are not interested in football you cannot argue with the positives that this Club brings to the town when the team is doing well. It advertises the town, it promotes the town and it brings pride to the town. Ask anyone who lives elsewhere what they associate with Grimsby, they will say fishing and football. The fishing industry has all but died. Without a new stadium, and all its associated benefits, the same fate could befall professional football in this area and that cannot be allowed to happen. The Football Club is an integral part of our heritage and its demise would be a hammer blow, not only to the fans but to the whole of the area.

Tonight you have the opportunity to do something about that.

Please don't let it die!"

## IT'S TEE TIME!

GTST are entering a team in the first ever Grimsby Town Youth Development Golf Day, which will be taking place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May at Grimsby Golf Club, teeing off at 1pm. So if you hold an official golf handicap and you would like to be a member of the four person GTST team, please let us know by Sunday 15th April.

You can either email us at [enquiries@gtst.net](mailto:enquiries@gtst.net), call us on 0870 4711 827, fax us on 0870 4711 832, or write to us at GTST, P.O. Box 421, Grimsby, DN32 9WL.

If we have more than four volunteers to play in the team, the names of the participants will be drawn out of the hat. Entry costs £100 per team, but GTST have paid the fee, so this is an excellent opportunity for any golfing Trust members to have a great day out free of charge, especially as an evening meal and disco are included in the package and you can bring a partner with you.

## LINES OF COMMUNICATION

One of the Trust's functions is to facilitate effective communication between the fans and the Club and in November we did this very successfully when GTST chairman Dave Otter interviewed his GTFC counterpart John Fenty and new manager Alan Buckley. Supporters were invited to submit questions for John and Alan via the Trust and the interview was then broadcast on Mariners World. In addition, a full transcript of the interview appeared on the GTST website, [www.gtst.net](http://www.gtst.net), within days.

If you were unable to view the interview on Mariners World or on our website and would like a printed copy, please send us an A5 stamped addressed envelope. The transcript is 13 pages long, so please add sufficient postage.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Trust currently has 236 members - 71 life, 4 family, 13 junior, 34 mature, 108 adult, 2 corporate and 4 honorary.

Encouragingly, we've had some new members since our last newsletter and not all of them were either related to or lodging with Trust Board members!

As previously stated, we are looking to improve our junior package in particular, although we recognise that we need to show our appreciation to all our members for their continued support. We will therefore continue to hold regular free to enter draws, giving members the chance to win limited edition prizes, like Andy Taylor's signed shirt.

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## BERNARD MORLEY

The Trust was saddened by the news of the death of Supporters Club Chairman Bernard Morley on Monday 5th March.

There can be few people who have done more for Grimsby Town Football Club and especially its supporters. Over the last eighteen years, thousands of Mariners fans, who would otherwise have struggled for transport, were able to attend away games thanks to the efforts of Bernard, who never received a penny for all his hard work.

He was liked and respected by all who knew him and will be greatly missed, not only by his friends and family, but also by those who didn't know him that well at all, but who were able to follow the Mariners the length and breadth of the country because of him.

challenging than others. This was also the case with the participants in the quiz, with the Trust team for one showing that, whilst their knowledge of Grimsby Town wasn't too bad, their expertise in the field of general football knowledge was practically non-existent.

The Trust raised around £180 on the night through a raffle and quiz entry fees, so thanks to all those who contributed. A signed GTFC shirt was also auctioned off and this raised £40 for the St Andrew's Hospice.

Over £300 was raised at a Race Night held at the Grosvenor public house on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Paul and Denise Roberts and their staff were excellent hosts and the generous regulars made it a profitable and enjoyable evening.

We are looking to hold more race nights this year, so if you are the manager of a suitable venue, please get in touch with us either by email at enquiries@gtst.net or leave a message on our answerphone 0870 4711827. Alternatively, if you're a regular at a pub or club, which you think would be a good venue, please suggest it to the manager.

## NEWS UPDATE

Following our appeal in the last issue, over a third of our membership have now agreed to receive their In Cod We Trust newsletters by email in future, resulting in a considerable saving to the Trust.

As you may remember, everyone who completed and returned the fundraising questionnaire sent out with the last newsletter was entered in a prize draw for a signed caricature of Mariners legend John McDermott. The draw was made by Dave Smith at the Fans Forum/Quiz Night in December and the winner of this fine piece of limited edition Jim Connor artwork was Christine Wood of Grimoldby.

There was a decent turnout for the aforementioned Fans Forum and Quiz Night at McMenemy's on 12th December, which was jointly organised by GTST and GTFC. Alan Buckley and John Fenty were quizzed by the audience on a variety of subjects, some more

**HARRY ROUND THE WORLD**

We are still looking for pictures of Harry the Haddock in interesting and/or exotic locations around the world for our "Harry Round The World" calendar.

With the Club now producing a season long calendar, we are looking at unleashing Harry on the world in time for the Christmas market, but we need your photos to do it. We'd prefer them to be sent to us electronically in jpeg format, but if you haven't yet gone digital, you can still post your photos to us at the address below.

Without your pictures, the Harry Round The World will be lost at sea, so whether you're going on holiday to Cancun or Cleethorpes this year, please get snapping!



You can write to us at:

Grimsby Town Supporters Trust, P.O. Box 421, Grimsby, DN32 9WL

Or email us at: enquiries@gtst.net

Visit our website at [www.gtst.net](http://www.gtst.net)

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