



STOP PRESS----STOP PRESS----STOP PRESS NEWS FROM LONDON ROAD

SPONSORSHIP

Darragh MacAnthony has announced that his company, MRI Overseas Property, will become the new shirt sponsors for the next two seasons in a record deal worth up to £6m. This level of sponsorship is fantastic news for the Posh and will enable the club to progress at a different level through the leagues.

NEW STADIUM

Darragh has made a £4m offer to buy back the ground, but Peterborough United Holdings Limited wants £12m. This is a ridiculous amount, given that PUHL claimed in 2003 that it had only acquired the ground to protect the long-term interests of the football club. Darragh has now withdrawn his offer and will hasten his search for land to build a new stadium. Darragh also announced that a 60-acre site had been identified by the city council, which he will look at soon. He intends to build a state-of-the-art stadium in a complex that includes a hotel, leisure facilities and shops, thus making Posh an integral part of the community.

OPEN DAYS AT LONDON RD : 10am-6pm, Saturday, 17 March and 1pm-6pm, Sunday, 18 March

“Support Posh with Intent” will be the theme at the open days to be held at London Road. The Chairman, Directors, Management and all the Posh players will be present to meet fans and sign autographs at the event, designed to forge stronger, more informal links with Posh supporters. Many activities will take place. You can see the Posh players training on the pitch, take part in a penalty shoot-out game, and try the Speed Kick challenge. Bars will be open in the Caroline Hand suite and the Posh Venue, where entertainment to celebrate St Patrick’s Day will include Irish dancing. There will be face-painting for the kids, fairground rides, a gladiator challenge, a tour of the stadium behind the scenes and many more attractions; you can also have your picture taken with your favourite players. The Posh youth team will be present and you can check out the various football in the community schemes. The ‘JUNIOR POSH’ supporters’ club will also be re-launched. New shirts for next season will be on display and you will be able to place your order for delivery in the summer.

On the Sunday why not celebrate Mother’s Day with a special lunch in the Caroline Hand Suite? *(Reservations required. Please telephone Vash on 01733 341050.)*

Make a point of stopping to say hello to us on **The Trust’s Stall**, where you can have a chat with us and browse through our selection of merchandise and old programmes, renew membership etc.

SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets will be available for purchase during the ‘Open Days’ events. Prices, to be announced soon, will be competitive with those of other League 2 clubs; there will be savings for early purchase before the end of March. Darragh has demonstrated a huge commitment to the

Posh with over £5m invested so far. Now he wants to see a commitment from the fans and double last year's season ticket sales. The Trust would urge all supporters to consider buying a season ticket for next season to demonstrate our faith and commitment to him as the Posh progress up through the leagues.

TRUST NEWS

TRUST MEETS CITY COUNCIL OFFICIALS

Last November three members of the Trust Board went to the Town Hall for a meeting with Councillor John Peach and other City Council officials.

Present from Peterborough City Council: **Councillor John Peach**, Leader of the Council; **Councillor David Thorpe**; **Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald**; **Gillian Beasley**, Chief Executive; **Margaret Welton**, Principal Lawyer.

Present from the Trust: **Peter Lloyd**, Chairman; **Barry Bennett**, Vice Chairman; **Peter Williams**, Secretary.

Councillor Peach thanked the Trust board members for attending and stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the City Council officers to understand the concerns of the Trust in relation to the transfer of the football ground in 2003, and for the Trust to understand the procedures that governed the actions of Peterborough City Council at the time.

It was explained that as the Covenants imposed in the 1955 Conveyance (sale) had been imposed for the Council's own benefit, then the Council could choose to enforce compliance with the covenants or waive them. In 2003 the view was that because of other budget priorities the Council did not want to buy back the football ground **but it did ensure that the covenants were preserved on the ground**. The Trust board members explained that, if wider views had been sought, many supporters of the football club would be unhappy about the proposed sale of the ground and would have pressed the City Council to consider the possibility of repurchasing it, as it was permitted to do under the terms of the Conveyance if it chose to do so.

There was a discussion about the future of the club, the stadium and the remaining covenants over the ground, in the light of the possible relocation of the football club, as proposed by the prospective new owner, Darragh MaCanthony. Gillian Beasley also confirmed that the Trust were included on a list of stakeholders in Opportunity Peterborough, which is considering the future of the South Bank as part of the City Centre plan.

Up The Posh!