

The Posh Supporters Trust

Newsletter No 5

Which are You?

(a) A Posh supporter who will willingly pay entrance money and doesn't really care about what happens at the club.

OR

(b) A Posh supporter who believes fans should have more of a say in how their club is run. A Posh Supporter who cares passionately about their club and realises that in these days of financial burden there is a risk of ANY football club going out of existence and therefore fans need an input sooner rather than later.

If Your answer is (b):-

then you must join the growing numbers of Posh fans who have already joined The Posh Supporters Trust and are now officially shareholders in Peterborough United Football Club

As fans we must have a say in how our club is run The more members the trust has, the louder our voice is. The louder our voice is, the more the people running our club have to listen.

We Know we can make a major contribution to the future of Peterborough United Football Club!

POSH SUPPORTERS TRUST NEWS

Bucket Collection

The bucket collection before the Swindon game raised a total of £187.98 including donations from Swindon fans themselves who also have a healthy and growing supporters trust. Thanks to everyone who donated.

Shares

All members of the trust are now shareholders of PUFC. Peter Boizot signed the transfer forms in front of members of the Trust committee. We have approaching 200 shares and now have a legal right to ask the club questions about how it is being run. This is a great start for a trust only officially launched over one month ago.

New Trust Website

Have you seen our new website yet? If not go to www.theposhtrust.co.uk It has updated Trust news as well as other Posh related information.

Membership

Dave Colbert has included his own report in this newsletter. You can still join the trust for just £10 a year see the website for an application form or see the back of this newsletter.

*****STOP PRESS*****

The Posh Supporters Trust has just been promised an additional donation of 200 shares in Peterborough United Football Club. This donation puts the Trust and its Members into the top 5 shareholders at the club.

Watch the local press for more details!



⚽ Junior Season Ticket News: £25!

In co-operation with the football club, the Junior Posh Supporters' Trust are delighted to announce that Junior season tickets – when purchased alongside an adult season ticket – will be a bargain **£25** anywhere in the ground next season.

This works out at just £1.08 a game!

Proof of age (15 and under) will be required. Other terms and conditions may apply. Hats off to the club for finally realising where the future fan base of the club lies.

⚽ Website Update:

I hope to get the Junior page of the website up and running as soon as possible to keep everyone informed about what is going on. If you have any ideas for the Junior page (articles, pics, jokes!) please send them in – anything and everything will be considered! Watch this space

John Henson – Junior Posh Supporters' Trust Secretary

Can You Help Us Please?

We are looking for members to help us distribute our newsletters on match days at London Road. If you are able to help us, please make contact with any committee member or contact us by Email www.theposhtrust.co.uk

NEWS FROM OTHER TRUSTS

All round the country supporters' trusts are becoming increasingly involved in the affairs of their clubs, often saving them from oblivion. Here are a few developments during the last few weeks.

The **York City** Supporters' Trust has taken control of the club after persuading the Inland Revenue to accept an offer of £100,000 from the trust as payment for an outstanding bill of £160,000.

Valiant 2001, the trust set up by fans of **Port Vale**, finally took over the football club, currently in the bottom half of Division 2. The trust has been trying to persuade Robbie Earle, the former Vale player and now a TV pundit, to be chairman.

Kettering Town Poppies Trust have been preparing to table an offer for their club, which is currently at the foot of the Nationwide Conference. The offer was underpinned by local businessmen.

With **Barnsley** due to emerge from administration, the new chairman, Peter Doyle, announced that two directors each had been nominated by the Supporters' Society and the Supporters' Club. The Society, which was only set up in October 2002, has contributed £70,000 to keep the club in existence.

Ron Noades, the chairman of **Brentford**, has promised to hand over control of the club to Bees United Supporters' Trust.

Supporters of **Huddersfield Town**, struggling near the foot of the Second Division, are setting up a trust. They are struggling to survive as a football club not just stay in the second division

Ryman Premier League club **Kingstonians** could be under the control of a supporters' trust by the end of the season. The fans want to persuade the outgoing chairman, Rajesh Khosla, to donate some of the proceeds of the sale of the Kingsmeadow stadium to help them establish a trust, which would then run the club. The stadium is to be purchased by **AFC Wimbledon**, who share the ground with the Ks. Kingstonian would then become the tenants.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The number of adult members of the Posh Supporters Trust has over the last few months, steadily risen to a figure in excess of 340. The Junior section currently has 56 members.

At a time where the club has seen the attendance's drop, the membership figures represent about 10% of the current gate.

As the trust members are now officially shareholders in PUFC, it means that 10% of the current home crowd have the opportunity to have their voice heard and importantly have a platform from which to ask questions of the board of directors.

We are continuing our quest to obtain a greater number of shares and our financial capabilities. As membership secretary, I would like to see the 10% rise to 20% and then to 30% and so on. The more of us there are the greater our voice will be.

I have recently sent a message to a number of members asking why they joined the trust and how they thought it could develop. A number of the replies will be posted on our website. Don't worry if you are a member and have not yet received the message. I will get around to everyone over the next few weeks.

One reply I have received came from David Crump (Member A00089). I have included a couple of extracts from his reply.

“when people talk about family values, and how to stop them being eroded, what better way is there for a family to bond together than around their local team ?”

“I see the Supporters Trust as a challenge and an opportunity. A challenge to people to show their commitment and appreciation to a valuable asset to the community. and an opportunity for that community to grow. The Trust needs to reach out to all those people in Peterborough that seem to see the Posh as a 'reserve attraction' - they support Arsenal, Man U or whoever, but like to be able to go to the odd game at London Road. Well - that isn't good enough - if they want the club to survive, they need to give it real support.”

It's obvious that people care very deeply about our football club. This was illustrated during the recent game against Cardiff where the support towards the team reached noteworthy levels. (The team didn't do too badly either). We now need to convince the majority of those same supporters that being a member of the Posh Supporters Trust is another way of showing that fantastic support with the added bonus, that it may in time, have a direct bearing on how the club is run.

I am interested to know what your views are on the trust and to hear any ideas you may have about how we can raise money. Every little bit will help put us in a position to increase our shareholding in the football club.

Finally, a big thank you to all those that have supported The Posh Supporters Trust since its birth. There is still a long way to go but with your help I am sure we can achieve what we set out to. POSH fans are as passionate about their club as any fans anywhere in the country. The Posh Supporters Trust hopes to give you a way to let those who run the club know how passionate you really are.

**You Care, The Posh Supporters Trust Cares, and I Care.
Join us; help us make a difference.**

Dave Colbert ----- Membership Secretary