

The Posh Supporters Trust

NEWSLETTER No 8

JANUARY 2004

***** **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** *****

Two New Sponsors Join Our Member Benefits Scheme!

Charters Bar on the Town Bridge offer Trust Members **30p off a pint of any Oakham Ale** in the two hours before and after any home match. *PLUS* a 10p donation to the Trust for every pint sold as above. In addition members can receive **Half-price** entry to *Charters Late Nite Live* on Friday and Saturday evenings from 9.30pm.

The Brewery Tap in Westgate offer Trust Members **10% off food orders** from Sunday to Wednesday.

(These 2 offers are valid on the production of your New Plastic Membership Cards Only)

This Newsletter is also kindly sponsored by 'The Brewery Tap'

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Members of The Posh Supporters' Trust, will receive with this newsletter a new membership card. This replaces the temporary version issued to you last year. However, if your subscription is due for renewal before 31 January 2004, you will receive a letter inviting you to renew your membership, and your new card will be issued upon renewal.

The **new cards** have been sponsored by '**Charters Bar**' Town Bridge, P'boro, whose proprietor we thank for his support and also the new member benefits referred to above. The card shows the expiry date of your membership.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

This year you will have the following subscription options: Annual £10, Five Year £40, Ten Year £80, Lifetime £150. Please sign your membership card upon receipt and produce it to receive your discounts and benefits from the businesses in our scheme. If you opt to pay a five-, ten-year or lifetime membership, your card will last twelve months and a replacement will automatically be sent to you. Please retain your existing share certificate for as long as you remain a member of the Trust.

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Junior members will not be required to pay any further subscriptions until their 16th Birthday. Naturally we trust that you will then subscribe to become adult members.

**LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS OF OUR NEW
GOLD BOND SUPER DRAW!**

SAVE £££££££££££££££'s with The P.S.T.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES OFFER FANTASTIC DISCOUNTS TO OUR MEMBERS

Arriva Willhire Centres Offer to be arranged through the Peterborough depot 01733 340493	10% off the standard published vehicle hire rates on all vehicles. Discounts available through all Depots.
Best Bodies Gymnasium Mallard Road, Bretton, P'Boro	£19 per month for 2 years : or £25 per month for 12 months.
Blinds Direct 0800 0282942	10% off purchases.
City Electrical Factors Fengate P'Boro 01733 310350	Discounts available according to type of product.
Escape Health & Beauty, 27 Winslow Road P'Boro	10% off beauty treatment.
F Wade & Son Fishing Tackle, 247 High Street, Fletton	10% off purchases. (excluding bait).
Fitzjohn Ingle Estate Agents, 4 Fortune Buildings Cowgate, P'Boro	20% off standard sole agency fee (with minimum charge of £1,000).
Fleur Florists, 31 Queensgate Centre, Peterborough	10% off purchases (excluding Interflora).
Golden Cod Fish Bar, 2a Crawthorne Road, Peterborough	10% off purchases.
Golden Cod Fish Bar, 4 Staniland Way, Werrington, P'Bor	10% off purchases.
Huntingdon Steeplechases The Racecourse, Brampton, Huntingdon	£3 off admission to The Paddock Enclosure for all weekday meetings.(excluding Bank Holiday Mondays).
J W D'Arcy Limited, Jewellers, 7 Westgate, Peterborough	10% discount off purchases – new sales only, not repairs
Lambe's Lawnmowers 22 Lincoln Road, Peterborough	10% off spares and service. Possible discount off new products.
Living Well Premier Health Club, Papyrus Road, Werrington, 01733 292600	One day free trial and reductions on Health Club membership.
Michael John, Hair Stylists, 30 Queensgate, P'Boro	10% off hair styling.
Michael John, Hair Stylists, 289 Lincoln Rd, Millfield,	10% off hair styling.
Peterborough Greyhound Stadium	2 enties for the price of 1 OR 4 meals for the price of 3 (inc admission) in the Raceview Restaurant. on Tues / Wed Evenings

Penco Fine Art & Graphics, 65 Queensgate P'Boro	10% off purchases.
Peterborough United Football Club	10% off replica shirts. Priority ticketing arrangements (after season ticket holders).
The Plough Inn, Ramsey Road, Farcet Fen 01733 844307	10% off meals.
RAC 0800 716796 Quote DTO120 http://www.rac.co.uk/join/posh Unfortunately offer not available to existing RAC members. (calls may be recorded) Terms and conditions apply.	20% discount on RAC Roadside, Recovery, At Home, Onward Travel and all Standard service levels except RAC Solutions. The offer, which includes free Joint Membership (worth £22) for another member of the household. (certain payment methods apply)
Speedy Hire Centres (Southern) Limited, 577 Lincoln Road, Peterborough	25% off equipment hire.
Terry Wright Cycles 39 Bridge Street Deeping St James, Peterborough	12½% off Bicycles and Accessories.
Thorney Golf Club English Drove Thorney 01733 270570	25% off green fees on the Lakes and Fen courses.
Woodston MoT Centre Wharf Road Industrial Est. Woodston 01733 315268	£5 off every MoT test.

NEW! For 2004 On Production of your New Plastic Membership card Only:-

The BREWERY TAP, 80 Westgate, Peterborough PE1 2AA	10% off food orders from Sunday to Wednesday
CHARTERS BAR, Town Bridge, Peterborough PE1 1DG	Half-price entry to Late Nite Live. Fri and Sat evenings from 9.30pm. 30p off a pint of any Oakham Ale in the two hours before and after home matches.

Help The Posh Supporters' Trust

When you shop at any Westgate House or AHF Furniture Store in East Anglia Help boost our fund raising by donating your COOP Dividend to our own account.
Make a note of our share number **473432**

MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING
HELD AT 7.30PM ON THURSDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2003
THE EXECUTIVE SUITE, LONDON ROAD STADIUM

PRESENT: Leigh Porter (LP), Richard Bellamy (RB), Barry Bennett (BB), Dave Colbert (DC), Keith Jennings (KJ), Gill Williams (GW), Peter Williams (PW) and 25 members, including Posh Directors Steve Holt (SH) and Bob Symns (BS).

APOLOGIES: John Henson (JH), Peter Lloyd (PL), Rhys Thrower (RT), David James, Nigel Cowling, Emma Cowling, Paul Little.

Chief Executive's introduction

After welcoming members, especially BS and SH, **LP** briefly outlined the progress made by the Trust in 2004, culminating in the place on the PUFC board. He saw this as a means of improving communication between the club, the two supporters' groups and the Trust. He was now in the right place to learn about the running of a football club and thus work towards achieving the Trust's long-term aim of gaining control of Posh. He admitted that he and the other directors were on a very steep learning curve and he had already realised how much work would be needed to turn round a club that had been stagnating in so many areas for over 25 years.

LP stated that, in his opinion, the sale of the ground was not a good deal for PUFC. He had invited Iain Forsythe to attend the meeting, but IF had declined (although he had offered to answer questions on the Trust website). Nobody on the club board fully understood the implications of the contractual situation prevailing between PUFC and the Holding Company; Barry Fry was unable to comment on account of a confidentiality clause; and the board had so far been unable to persuade Colin Hill to answer questions.

Questions and answer session

The first comments and questions related to the separation of the club from the ground, such as the following: If the club had supposedly been "saved" from the clutches of a property developer earlier in the year, what did Colin Hill (a property developer) intend to do with the ground? How could he be prevented from exercising pressure on the City Council to overturn the covenant? What was the true value of the property? Why had letters to Alf Hand been ignored? If the club had no tangible assets, what was the benefit to shareholders? Why hadn't the landlords improved the floodlights? Was there a commitment to marry the club and ground again? SH could not answer questions regarding the Holding Company, but said that the board could put pressure on Colin Hill to give answers. BS denied that there was any collusion between Barry Fry and Colin Hill. Prior to the last board meeting, PUFC had asked for a representative from the Holding Company to attend, but nobody did. PUFC was talking to the City Council. Despite losing the stadium as collateral, the club's bankers were being very supportive. **SH** promised to take up with Alf Hand the fact that letters had not been answered. **SH** went on to advise that, like the other new directors, he would bring his own expertise and knowledge to the club. He had personally injected £25,000. Although he knew that there had been many false dawns, false promises and window dressing, he could not answer for the past. There were a million and one things to do.

SH said a strategic plan was being drawn up and a concerted effort to encourage support from people born in the city. The aim was to make Posh a Division 1 club by 2005/06 and become a pivotal player in the community. Thousands of businesses would be targeted, with the help of local and regional agencies such as the EEDA, GPIA and City Council. There would be plans to enhance commercial revenues and pursue tight controls throughout the club. Stakeholders would be identified, including the Trust. It was hoped that a new initiative, Pitch Owner's Surface Holding (POSH), would generate £80,000 by selling sections of the London Road pitch. There could be a stand at Tesco's. Players not participating in home matches could be asked to socialise with box holders and their guests.

From the floor it was argued that the club needed to target not so much its existing fans as people in the new estates and townships, such as Hampton, thus encouraging newcomers to the city to visit London Road. It was vital that "kids for a quid" tickets be available. While children's season-ticket prices were good value, £8 was too much for a single game. Could the club arrange prestigious friendly matches with Premiership clubs at half-term to encourage new support? Could players visit supermarkets to meet the fans?

With reference to a mix-up before the recent F A Cup match, why could not the club not do (as most others did) publicise in the match day programme all ticketing arrangements for the next match?

BS was asked about the burger stall outside the ground that had a virtual monopoly of fast food sales. **BS** explained that rent was paid to the holding company, not the club. Mr Boizot had not allowed the club to sell burgers within the stadium, because he didn't want the smell of onions to pervade the ground. There were all sorts of health, safety, personnel and financial issues that had to be considered before a decision could be taken to enter into competition.

BS was asked who made profit from the bars and confirmed that this was the club. When he was asked about pre- and post-match facilities, particularly in the Starlite, it was pointed out that this was the PUSC's clubroom and in any event there were licensing restrictions. With regard to "open dining" in the restaurant, this facility had been abused by people who entered the ground without paying for a ticket. **BS** wanted people to be able to walk in to the restaurant for a pre-match meal. There was a shortage of seating and suitable tables.

LP was asked whether the place on the club board was his or the Trust's. **LP** explained that he had made it clear to Barry Fry that he should only be there as a representative of the Trust. Under a new Rule [which would be introduced soon, subject to the members' agreement] **LP** would have to submit himself to re-election at each AGM of the Trust. The position of supporter-director on the club board was not open only to the Chief Executive of the Trust.

Since the three directors on the panel had been in post for only three weeks, there were inevitably more questions, comments and suggestions than answers. But **BS**, **SH** and **LP** made it clear that they were determined to obtain answers and work tirelessly to turn the club round.

Following the Q & A session, Trust Member Mick Robinson held a quiz, which caused much head-scratching for most of those who entered!

The evening ended with a presentation by RB of the Gold Bond Super Draw, which is outlined in this newsletter

The Trust thanks all those who attended, in particular Bob Symns, Steve Holt and Mick Robinson for their contributions to the evening.

USE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Whilst we were a little disappointed with the low turn-out at our Members' Meeting on 11 December, it was just before Christmas and people perhaps had other things to do on a cold dark evening. Now that your Trust Board has succeeded in one of its principal aims – to have a Supporter-Director on the Posh Board – we want to hear from you about your concerns regarding the club. This is your Trust and we want to make it work for you. The three Posh directors took away from our meeting many comments and questions and promised to raise them at their next board meeting. We are now waiting for the feedback. If you didn't attend the Members' Meeting, what do you think? What do you want to know? You can write to us by letter or e-mail at the addresses shown on the back page of this newsletter.

THE RISE AND RISE OF SUPPORTERS' TRUSTS

Suddenly supporters are gaining a voice in football. They have always been key "stakeholders" in clubs by paying for tickets and buying merchandise, but traditionally they have had no influence in the governance of the clubs or national bodies like the F A, Premiership or Football League. When Supporters Direct (the Government-funded initiative to promote supporters' trusts) was launched in 2000, there were only six supporters' trusts. There are now 102. Thus the movement has grown at an astounding pace through not only an increase in the number of trusts, but also the average size of existing trusts:

	2001	2002	2003
Aggregate membership of trusts	6,748	17,749	32,883
Average membership of trusts	337	467	606

If expressed as a percentage of home gates, trust membership has grown from 15% in 2002 to 19% in 2003. (Incidentally, The Posh Supporters' Trust currently has 490 adult and 120 junior members.)

Out of the 102 trusts, 64 are in the Premiership, Football League or the Conference (the rest being in Scotland, non-league football or rugby).

	<i>Trusts</i>	<i>Share-holding in club</i>	<i>Supporter Director</i>
Premiership	10	6	2
Division 1	14	7	1
Division 2	17	11	8
Division 3	18	12	7
Conference	5	4	3

The smallest trust has 38 members and the largest (Manchester United's) 3,300.

TRUST HANDS OVER £2000 CHEQUE FOR FLOODLIGHTS APPEAL

Although the perception may be different, The Posh Supporters' Trust has provided to Peterborough United, only practical and functional support, such as the Open Day (in conjunction with the OSC), the Ball Boys and running the Club Shop on match days. All funds raised through our normal fund-raising methods have and will continue to be banked and utilised as democratically decided by our membership.

However, just prior to Christmas, we launched a floodlight appeal specifically to assist The Posh with the cost of improving the lighting for us at London Road.

Leigh Porter recently presented to the club a cheque for the sum of £2,000 in aid of the refurbishment of the floodlights. We thank all those who supported our Bucket Collections, our New Years Eve Party and the Balloon Race for their participation and generosity. (and of course a special thank you to the individual TRUST, PISA and OSC members who physically helped us to collect the money and sell labels).

As you may have read, Barry Fry has promised to give an equivalent sum to the Trust in the form of shares, thus making us the second largest shareholder.

POSH PROGRAMMES

We have a huge stock of Posh home and away programmes from the 1960s through to 2002/03 and a large selection of other clubs' programmes not involving matches with Posh. If there are gaps in your collection, place an order at our counter in the Club Shop or our stall in the Family Stand, or write to us, or send a message to our website. With a few exceptions for particularly rare items, prices are: 1950s £3.50, 1960s £2.50; 1970s £1.50; 1980s £1.25, 1990s to 2002/03 £1, all less 20% for Trust members. We also sell bags of assorted programmes (with a face value of more than £10) for 50p.

We are desperately in need of programmes relating to matches not involving Peterborough United. If you have programmes that are surplus to your requirements, please donate them to The Posh Supporters' Trust.

FIRST DAY COVER

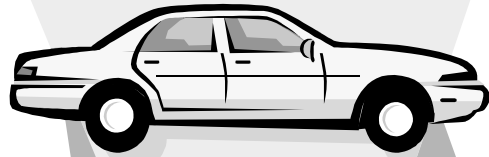
Thanks to a kind donation by Trust member Dave Porter, we can offer a mint-condition postal cover issued following the Posh v Darlington Play-Off Final in May 2000. It is autographed by Andy Clarke. We are seeking offers over £75. Please apply to our postal or e-mail address.

MORE VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The board of The Posh Supporters' Trust is always seeking help with distribution of newsletters, bucket collections etc. If you believe in our cause, and can assist occasionally please help us. Contact us via the address on the back page or speak with any committee member.

TOGETHER WE CAN ONLY GET STRONGER!

WIN! - WIN! - WIN! - WIN! - WIN! - WIN!



THE POSH SUPPORTERS TRUST **GOLD BOND SUPER DRAW!**

Introducing a Fantastic Opportunity for the Trust to raise funds, and give YOU the Opportunity to Win BIG PRIZES in our Super Draw!

Gold Bond is an established lottery operating for the benefit of many football clubs and supporters' trusts. *The Posh Supporters' Trust* will receive 50% commission of all ticket sales less 15% commission that we will pay to agents.

****** *The Gold Bond Super Draw* ******

Guarantees prizes of £2,000 every week, £5,000 every month, a New Car four times a year and 400 Cash Prizes weekly.

Entry is only £1 a week and you can have as many entries as you wish. You will receive 7 numbers for each entry into the draw.

YOU can also become an Agent to sell tickets for us! Agents receive 15% commission on all sales, *plus* 10% of winnings on the tickets they sell.

Why don't **YOU** become an agent for your Family and Friends, your Workmates, your local Pub, Club, Organisation, Shop or Business? *Participants Must be 16 or Over!*

Contact our Treasurer Richard Bellamy on 01480 495625 - mobile 07909 588151, or speak with Richard in the POSH Club Shop on any match day.

There are 2 different forms to download, to participate in our Super Draw

Use one form for personal entries if you wish to subscribe by Standing Order.

Use the other form if you would like to become an Agent or wish to pay by cheque.

Please Note ... All entries must be fully paid up by Thursday am each week to be eligible for the Friday draw. Entries must be in the hands of the agents or a member of the Trust Board by Thursday morning each week.

REMEMBER----- YOU CAN'T WIN IT IF YOU AIN'T IN IT! GOOD LUCK!

The Posh Supporters Trust

Registered with the Registrar of friendly Societies as an Industrial & Provident Society

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms [Please delete as applicable]

Surname.....*First Names*.....

Address.....

.....*Postcode*.....

Home Phone No.....

E-mail Address.....

I wish to become a **Member** of The Posh Supporters' Trust in accordance with its Rules and enclose a Membership Subscription of **£.....**
 (Members must be aged 16 or over) *please select your subscription from:-*
£10 for 12 months / £40 for 5 years / £80 for 10 years / £150 for lifetime
 Signed.....Date.....

Please Enrol the following **Children** (0 to 16 years old) as Members of The Junior Posh Supporters Trust. I enclose £1 joining fee for each child.

Full Name.....Date of Birth.....

Full Name.....Date of Birth.....

Full Name.....Date of Birth.....

Full Name.....Date of Birth.....

I wish to **make an additional voluntary donation** of **£.....**
 to The Posh Supporters' Trust in accordance with the objects of the Trust
 (contained within its rules).

Signed.....

**Please either hand this form to any Committee Member or it send to:-
 The Posh Supporters' Trust. P O Box 587, Peterborough PE4 5XL.
 Enclosing your cheque made payable to The Posh Supporters' Trust.**

Visit our website at [**www.theposhtrust.co.uk**](http://www.theposhtrust.co.uk).

Email us at [**theposhtrust@yahoo.co.uk**](mailto:theposhtrust@yahoo.co.uk)