



March 2009 Newsletter

Let's get back to doing what we all want to be doing

Much against their will the Board of the Trust have been obliged to devote much of their time and energy in recent times to legal matters, initially in defending Trust members against attempts to deprive them of their shareholding, and then in defending the club against attempts by some of its directors to give away its most valuable asset, a tranche of land, some 110 acres in all with enormous future development potential, which the Club owns between Brunton Park, Tesco and the river. Fortunately these legal battles, none of which directly involved the Club itself but have been of enormous benefit to it, have been won. The people of Cumbria are therefore guaranteed a substantial shareholding in their Club in perpetuity - 25.37% to be exact, currently the largest single shareholding in the Club - and the land in question can now only be disposed of under strictly commercial conditions laid down by a Court with all proceeds going to the Club - including those proceeds deriving from future development. Some of the legal costs in the land issue remain to be settled but the litigation itself is, thankfully, over.

The Trust exists to protect the interests of the people of Cumbria in their last remaining football league Club and to do whatever it can to help the Club.

The Trust exists to protect the interests of the people of Cumbria in their last remaining football league Club and to do whatever it can to help the Club. Where Trusts (more than 150 now around the country) are welcomed into their Clubs and can hence work with the Boards of their Clubs in raising money, the results can be stunning and hundreds of thousands of pounds are raised for Clubs by their Trusts around the country every year. In current conditions with the tightest financial circumstances for 80 years, falling gates and a low league position it is even more necessary for everyone to pull together. The Carlisle Trust has no objective other than to initiate and participate in this process and over the last few months has written to the Club Board on several occasions to get the ball rolling - (see later).

For reasons best known to themselves some of the Club's directors have sought to exclude the Trust (i.e the Club's supporters who ultimately provide the vast majority of the Club's income) from any meaningful participation in its management, (see later) to the extent that the Trust's elected director on the Club's Board has actually been excluded from

the normal facilities offered to Directors on match days, and has also been excluded from the on-going management process, which is currently conducted through a weekly management meeting from which the Trust's director is excluded. The Trust director does attend the club Board meetings but these have been reduced to only two or three a year and no longer provide an adequate means for the Club directors to fulfil their legal obligations vis-a-vis the Club. For the good of the Club this situation must change and the Trust has written to the Club and its directors on several occasions to this end. Initially the Club's directors were dismissive (see later) but, at last, at least some of the Club's directors have now shown an interest in meeting with the Trust Board to discuss ways of working together. The Trust will continue to work towards the twin goals of active supporter involvement in the management of the Club through the Trust-elected Club director, and joint fund-raising projects with the Club.

And in the meantime the Trust has begun to organise fund-raising events on its own. Having run a relatively successful 'Race Night', we have organised another on Friday 27th March commencing at 7pm in Denton Holme Conservative Club, Carlisle. This event is very much looking like a sell-out. Others will follow. A golf day has been organised at Eden Golf Club, Nr Carlisle on Friday 10th July 2009 and supporters' social evenings are planned for later in the year. Whilst we work independently anything we do will be in addition to what the Club does, not in competition with it. We're back doing what we should be doing - and we'll always be there when the Club needs us in the future. Other Clubs, like ours, have been saved from disaster by their trusts and the Trust needs to be there permanently for that reason - so that it can fight the cause of the Club and its supporters when it's needed, no one else will.

Everything else in the Club changes - owners, managers, players, directors. The only thing that doesn't change is us, the supporters, and the way we can protect our Club is through our Trust. Look out for us, support us and give us a hand. Everything we do is for Carlisle United. Enclosed with this newsletter are a couple of application forms. See if you can get a couple of your friends to join. Membership of the Trust costs only £5 and there are family memberships now. Membership makes YOU an owner of part of the biggest single share stake in Carlisle United.

Up The Blues

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the United Trust will be held on Sunday 26th July 2009. The venue is to be fixed.

As is the case for most Annual General Meetings the Board of the Trust will be asking you to accept the accounts for 2008 and confirm as auditors E J Williams & Co, Chartered Accountants of 4 Brunswick Street, Carlisle.

Nominations for the board of the United Trust will be accepted and a list of those willing to stand will be published on the agenda for the meeting.

It was hoped that the new rules for an Industrial and Provident Society would have been published by now but sadly this is not the case and they are still held up in the legislative process. In order to progress items that are not affected by the overarching Model rules for Supporters Trusts (as amended in 2003 but still awaiting a final version) we will be asking members to accept rules relating to the following:

- Motions and amendments to be placed before the AGM and timetable for placing motions
- Conduct of speakers and the right to reply
- Withdrawal of motions
- Postal ballots
- Election rules, control and timetable for elections
- Co-opted members
- Principles of Board Membership
- Replacement of board members -
- Nominations and eligibility
- Statements and Campaigning by candidates
- Election of supporters director to the Board of the Football Club
- Constitution of the United Trust
- Code of conduct for board members
- Standards of behaviour and treatment of members at meetings
- Conflict of interests
- Role of the Chair
- Role of the Secretary

A copy of the above will be available at the Annual General Meeting and can be found on the Trust Website.

If you are considering standing for the board of the Trust please contact Norman Steel at the Trust address and he will be only too happy to speak to you directly and give more information about what is required of a member of the board.

Can football clubs afford multi million pound owners?

The current situation in the Premiership is no different (apart from the amount of money) than it is in the lower leagues. Many of the clubs under the ownership of tycoons - Russian, Arab, American, Indian, British or whatever are living on 'loaned' money. The vast majority of clubs are not 'gifted' money by their owners they are 'loaned' it and at some time that loan will be called in.

The majority of clubs have a securitisation settlement attached to any sale, which states that the money loaned from the owner is to be paid back once they leave or should that club fall into administration then through a debenture they have the first shout on any money or assets that the club may have.

The recent fee offered of £100+ million by Manchester City for Kaka can only be described as obscene. At a time when the world is in a recession, people are losing their jobs or on short time, Kaka was to earn £500,000 per week. Is anyone worth that? If clubs under the ownership of people with that kind of money are going to buy their league positions what hope is there for the remainder of the clubs in the league and what is the knock on effect for the rest of the lower leagues likely to be?

The more urgent question must be, "can supporters afford a season ticket next season or might they be picking and choosing their games"?

What happens to the Liverpools, Chelseas and Manchester Cities of the game when the owners decide to take their money out or leave and call in their loans. - it doesn't take a genius to work that one out. But what about the lower leagues who have benefactors who 'loan' money to a club, how will a debt be repaid? By giving one of its assets away - perhaps.

The difference between Trusts and others is that Trusts 'gift' money to the clubs. There is no loan, debenture, securitisation settlement or taking of assets. It's a straight gift from supporters to their club. The United Trust has permanently invested £800,000 + into Carlisle United Football Club. No loans.

New Family Membership Deal

The Trust, in recognition of the current economic climate, have decided to introduce a special family membership fee starting with the new membership year on June 1, 2009. From that date, you will be able to subscribe your whole family for just £10 - offering a £10 saving for a family of four. The only stipulation we make is that all people are living at the same address and that all children are aged 16 and over, in keeping with the legal requirements for Trust membership. Our new-look membership form which is available for download from our website at www.united-trust.org.uk will enable you to commence or renew your membership at this special discount rate. Note that families may only join for a year at a time using this scheme. You may of course set up a standing order via your bank to pay the fee automatically each year.

The following article appeared in the Football Supporter 014

Amidst all the foreign money flowing into the Premier League, shouldn't somebody spare a thought for the fans, and all the cash they're being asked to fork out these days? Money might buy success, but TFS correspondent Colin Daniels reckons lack of funds could soon result in supporters no longer being able to justify the expense of watching their team.

It seems we're living in an era where Premiership football clubs have become a fashionable addition to an extrovert billionaire's portfolio. While affluent owners of top-flight clubs are splashing out large amounts of cash in the pursuit of success, and raking in ever increasing television revenues, ordinary supporters are left to bear the brunt of the financial implications. With the cost of supporting their club being so high, many fans are being priced out of the game as the unsavoury state of football finances takes its toll.

The acquisition of Manchester City by Middle Eastern investment group Abu Dhabi United has increased the scale of financial obscenity to an entirely new level. Foreign investment had reached unprecedented heights with the arrival of Roman Abramovich at Chelsea in the summer of 2003, but with members of the Abu Dhabi royal family entering the scene at Eastlands, even the Russian oil tycoon has been dwarfed. It is extremely difficult to comprehend the sheer extent of the Al Nahayan family's wealth. To obtain a sense of perspective, it is best to divide by, say ten million to imagine their bank account containing £54,000. To facilitate the purchase of renowned Brazilian star Robinho, new chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak has tossed the loose change from his pocket-totalling £3.25 million to Real Madrid.

The new owners at Eastlands are clearly relishing their status as the new rich kids on the block. Immediately, they threatened to undermine the Premiership's duopoly with

sensational swoops on the last day of the transfer window. While the attempt to snatch Dimitar Berbatov from under the noses of their city rivals was undone by the tunnel vision for Old Trafford, their success in diverting Robinho from Chelsea is a mark of their potential plutocracy. The shock signing put Abramovich with his paltry £11.7 billion fortune, well and truly in his place.

If the new City owners' noises are to be followed up, this is just the beginning of their lavish expenditure. Dr Sulaiman Al-Fahim has highlighted the need to buy 18 world class players of Robinho's price range to fulfill an ultimate ambition of winning the Champions League. Such a notion seems unimaginable, yet the group's dealings on the first day on their arrival at the club suggest they mean business. Essentially, this amounts to no more than fantasy football being played out in real life.

But Kevin Parker, chairman of Manchester City Supporters' Club, is unrepentant, "We are selling our soul a little" he admits, "but it's a small price to pay, We want some success, and the reality is you need money to compete or you can't."

Parker's longing for silverware is understandable; City have hardly set English football alight in modern times. This is a club that has finished in 14th place or lower in three of the last five Premiership seasons. An established top-flight side they may be, but 'established also-rans' pinpoints their recent standing more accurately. Moreover, the club has suffered a major trophy drought stretching back to 1976. From such a starting point the idea of bankrolling the club into European giants appears grandiose to say the least. Parker outlines a more realistic goal: "With the money available, you have to be breaking into the top four clubs within three years. This is our target, and we would be disappointed if we didn't achieve it."

Of course, not all Premiership clubs are owned by a billionaire sheikh who

could afford to write off season ticket revenue without batting an eyelid. However, that doesn't excuse the range of exorbitant ticket prices in the league. Arsenal see fit to charge £48 for the lucrative visits of such glamorous opposition as Hull and Wigan, and when other 'top four' teams come calling, punters are forced to stump up no less than £66 if they wish to view the action.

With such extortionate costs involved it's easy to see why many supporters are being forced away from the Premiership. Recent studies of more than 3,500 fans of top-flight clubs offer a stark insight into the extent of this disillusionment. The case of Manchester United is perhaps the most revealing as, despite an almighty Champions League and Premiership double in 2007-08, nearly one in five (19%) will not be renewing their season ticket at Old Trafford. With prices averaging £711, it is little wonder they are opting to stay away.

So what can be done to ensure a more reasonable deal for fans? When fans own the club they make sure ticket prices are kept at a sustainable level. If, for example, Barcelona's president tried to raise prices to the level of the Premiership, it simply wouldn't be voted through by members - Barcelona is owned by a Trust.

The Catalan giants are not alone in their grassroots ownership. Real Madrid and Bayern Munich, among others, have also gone down the supporters' route. The results can be tangible, with supporters paying just £15 to watch Bayern's recent heavyweight clash with Werder Bremen, while fans in England parted with at least £35 to view Liverpool's goalless draw at home to Stoke earlier this season.

Lets hope certain clubs take notice and act before the sorry financial situation distances more supporters from the game, and half empty grounds come right back into fashion.

Extracts from an article by David Conn - The Guardian Wednesday 18th February 2009

Several lower division clubs have been separated from ownership of their grounds in recent years, often with grim results, although Barry Hearn the owner of Leyton Orient and the London snooker, darts, boxing and poker impresario has decided to put the club up for sale. Like many businessmen in charge of lower-division football clubs, he has consistently run a wage bill higher than the club can really afford, to pay players who can compete above the level which the club's crowd (5,206 on average) can realistically finance.

Like many smaller club's chairmen too, Hearn has financed much of the club's shortfall himself by lending money to the club - via his holding company, Matchroom Sport. Loans that reached £2.4m last June, and have now increased by a further £1m because Hearn this month paid off the club's other significant debt, owed to the finance company, Lombard North Central.

Hearn's solution, which has also been played out at other lower-division clubs is to transfer the club into his own company in exchange for wiping out the loans by him to the club. This, not surprisingly is meeting opposition from the Fans Trust (Loft) . The club will become tenants. This proposition is to be voted on by the shareholders, however, Matchroom owns 79.3% of shares so a vote is a formality.

When asked why Hearn would not write off his loan to Leyton Orient he replied "I don't write off money. Why should I? It's not a charity".

York City - The Bootham Crescent ground was transferred in 1999 for £165,000 to a holding company owned by the club's directors, who then agreed to sell it for housing. York went into administration; new owners eventually paid the former directors more than £2m for return of the ground.

Rotherham United - Former owners, scrap metal recyclers the Booth family, took possession of the Millmoor ground in 2005 in return for paying off the club's £3m overdraft. The Merry Millers went into administration twice after that and have this season left Millmoor to play at the Don Valley Stadium.

Brighton & Hove Albion - An original cause celebre, the Goldstone Ground was sold for retail by Brighton's former majority owner, Bill Archer in 1995, with no replacement lined up. Brighton have ground-hopped ever since. Recently work finally began on their new stadium at Falmer. We were told when we played them recently that they should be in their new home by 2012/13.

Oxford United - The club's former Manor Ground was sold in 2002 for a reported £12m but the money went to the owner, Firoz Kassam, not the club. The club pays rent to play at the new stadium which is named after Kassam.

Wimbledon - The former owner Sam Hammam moved the club to Selhurst Park and sold Plough Lane to Safeway for £8m in 1997. Hammam sold the club for £28m but it went into administration and moved to Milton Keynes. A new club, AFC Wimbledon, was formed by supporters in 2002, and is currently sitting pretty at the top of Blue Square Conference South.

Meet the Trust

Ali Irving

Ali joined the board of the Trust in 2008. She is the daughter of our legendary goalkeeper Allan Ross. Born in Carlisle during Allan's time with CUFC, as was normally the case in those days, the family made their home in the City and is now a keen supporter, season ticket holder and travels to all away games. It was not surprising to hear that her favourite player was Kieren Westwood, but she had a secret wish that he did not beat her fathers appearances for CUFC - and he didn't.

Ali's mum Helen (when having a rummage through some old items of interest) came across one of Allan's pay slips from CUFC. Dated 1st May 1964.

Whilst Helen is the first to admit that the sum of £29.3s.8d was a good wage at the time, I wonder what current players especially those in the premiership would make of that. Interesting to see that there was a reward for appearances (£4) and league positions (£6). The bonus of £12 must equate to a clean sheet for Rossie.

Welcome to the trust Board Ali and we know you will give 100%

		£	s.	d.
Name <i>A. Ross</i>				
Week ending <i>- 1 MAY 1964</i>				
Wages		18	12	6
Appearances			4	0
Bonus		12	0	0
GROSS		30	12	6
DEDUCTIONS:				
Income Tax		9	7	7
Nat. Ins.		11	8	0
Genl. Inc.		7	8	0
Rest				
NET AMOUNT		20	3	8

Fans Rights

What is Section 27 of the Crime Reduction Act?

Are football supporters once again the first to feel the force of new legislation and be caught in the firing line between the rights of the supporter and the power of the state?

The Football Supporters Federation (FSF) and the civil-rights organisation Liberty are to campaign against the police use of Section 27 of the 2006 Violent Crime Reduction Act. The FSF is concerned that fans issued with the notice have been prevented from attending games even though no complaints have been received or charges made.

Section 27 allows the constabulary to move someone from a specified area for a period of up to 48 hours if they think there's a possibility that an alcohol-related offence may be committed. Their campaign is called "Watching Football Is Not A Crime!". The FSF is hoping to fight the use of Section 27 through judicial review. Liberty believes that the Human Rights Act can be employed to stop use of the legislation and has made representations to the police. Recent Home Office statistics show that out of 37 million match attendances in England and Wales only 3,842 arrests were made (one for every 10,000 fans).

Those caught and dealt with under Section 27 have been requested to sign a form** where their details have been recorded. If they refused they are being told they will be arrested.

So what is Section 27?

Section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 provides that a constable in uniform can issue a direction to leave a locality to an individual aged at least 16 who is in a public place and who presents a risk of crime or disorder. The direction will prohibit their return to the locality for up to 48 hours.

The test is:-

(a) that the presence of the individual in that locality is likely, in all the circumstances, to cause or to contribute to the occurrence of alcohol related crime or disorder in that locality, or to cause or to contribute to a repetition or continuance there of such crime or disorder; and (b) that the giving of a direction under this section to that individual is necessary for the purpose of removing or reducing the likelihood of there being such crime or disorder in that locality during the period of which the direction has effect or of there being a repetition or continuance in that locality during that period of such crime or disorder. - In short if police think you are at risk of getting drunk or contributing to a possible disorder they can remove you from wherever you are.

A direction under this section:-

- (a) must be given in writing
- (b) may require the individual to whom it is given to leave the locality in question either immediately or by such time as the constable giving the direction may specify;
- (c) must clearly identify the locality to which it relates;
- (d) must specify the period for which the individual is prohibited from returning to that locality;

- (e) may impose requirements as to the manner in which that individual leaves the locality, including his route; and
- (f) may be withdrawn or varied (but not extended so as to apply for a period of more than 48 hours) by a constable.

The act then goes on to tell you where the individual can go i.e. home, a place where they are directed to attend for the purposes of employment, educational premises, medical treatment, court or tribunal

A constable who gives a direction under this section must make a record of:-

- (a) the terms of the direction and the locality to which it relates;
- (b) the individual to whom it is given;
- (c) the time at which it is given;
- (d) the period during which that individual is required not to return to the locality

What is a public place?

- (a) a highway; or
- (b) any place to which at the material time the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission. "Place" also means transport

**Note: No mention of the form having to be signed

Golf Day

Wonderful news! The United Trust are to hold another of their Golf Days at Eden Golf Club, Nr Carlisle on Friday 10th July 2009.



This event will be sponsored by the Stobart Group. The Competition is for teams of 4 golfers and the total cost including meal is £110 per team. If you fancy a days golf, some good company, a chance to meet some of the legends of CUFC and win some wonderful prizes please complete the enclosed form and return.

Carlisle United Supporters' Race Night

at Denton Holme Conservative Club, Nelson Street, Carlisle on Friday 27 March 2009 at 7.00pm

Entertainment by:-
Stevie Las Vegas
Pie and Pea Supper



Donations from the evening will be made to Eden Valley Hospice Tickets £5.00

Letters

The United Trust to CUFC . . .

4th September 2008

The Board of Directors of Carlisle United Football Club (1921) Limited

The United Trust, an organisation established and maintained through the donations of people dedicated to the well-being of Carlisle United Football Club and now effectively the largest single shareholder in the Club, has no objective other than to protect the Club in the interests of the Cumbrian community which supports it and to foster its well-being. The litigation which the Trust was forced into to protect its shareholding and the assets of the Club and the proceedings (dismissed by the Court as 'an affront to justice and fair play') against the former Trust Chair are now concluded and we hope to conduct our dealings with the other Club owners in an atmosphere of mutual trust and co-operation.

Given the recent change of ownership to a group of people who publicly state that they are keen to work with supporters and with any group working for the benefit of the Club, we wish to re-affirm that we also are keen to work along with the Club's other owners for the good of the Club. There are now some 150 Trusts around the country supporting and often holding shares in professional sports Clubs and where they are able to work together with their Clubs' and other shareholders the funds they are able to raise can be enormous. The membership of our Trust is growing and its recent fund-raising efforts demonstrate that the initiative and enthusiasm of its members could indeed provide a valuable source of income for the Club.

However, we are concerned that the Trust's representative on the Board is being treated differently from other Board members and is apparently being excluded from what effectively are Board meetings where matters which are patently of concern to the Club directors are being discussed. We assume that this behaviour derives only from the lack of comprehension on the part of the new owners of why the Trust is there and what its objectives are, and would propose at the earliest opportunity a joint meeting of the Trust Board and the Club Board so that we can overcome these initial difficulties, get to know each other, and discuss ways in which we can work together in the future for the good of Carlisle United.



Alistair Woodcock, Secretary

The United Trust to CUFC . . .

Dear Mr Allen

Given the team's league position, the financial circumstances at the Club as set out in the latest accounts, and the difficult economic climate it is vital that all of the people who support the Club are fully involved in ensuring its well being. Where the resources, initiative, manpower and effort of Clubs and their Supporters Trust are combined it is repeatedly demonstrated that the financial benefits to the Clubs can be enormous – as indeed is the case at Carlisle United where the Trust has already invested more than £800,000.

In our recent letters to the Board of the Club we have proposed a joint meeting between the Board of CUFC and the Board of the United Trust and, since we have not received a response to this particular request, we would again urge you to arrange such a meeting as the launchpad for a joint effort to bring much-needed resources into the Club.

Yours sincerely

A. Woodcock, Secretary to the Board of the United Trust

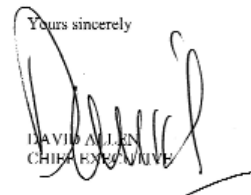
CUFC to The United Trust . . .

Dear Mr Woodcock

Thank you for your letter of 27 December 2008.

The contents of this will be discussed at the Board Meeting on 5 March 2009.

Yours sincerely



DAVID ALLEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The United Trust to CUFC . . .

Dear

As you know there are hundreds of members of the United Trust who are keen to assist in undertaking fund-raising efforts for the benefit of Carlisle United. Other Trusts around the country, working in harmony with the Clubs they support, raise hundreds of thousands of pounds. We have done this once already and are keen to continue. The other owners of the Club (the United Trust owns 25.37% of the shares in the Holding Company) have recently publicly expressed their intention to work with supporters' groups for the benefit of the Club and we are eager to begin that process.

As expressed in our letter of 4th September 2008, we believe that the best way to get the ball rolling is for the Board of the Trust to meet with the Board of the Club to discuss ways in which we might help – we obviously do not wish to duplicate what the Club is already planning – and we look forward to receiving your positive response to that letter in the next few days along with possible dates for a meeting.

Yours sincerely

A. Woodcock
Secretary of the United Trust

CUFC to The United Trust . . .

Dear Alistair

Thank you for your letters of 4 September 2008 and 19 September 2008.

Fund-raising

It is good to hear that the recent fund-raising efforts will provide a valuable source of income for the Club. Please feel free to carry out whatever fund-raising you consider is appropriate and beneficial to the Club.

Management

The Club has a sound business structure with management meetings held regularly. Any matters requiring board approval will be taken to that level.

Yours sincerely



DAVID ALLEN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Trust Board Members

Norman Steel - Chair	Alistair Woodcock - Secretary
Billy Atkinson	Damien Steel
Ali Irving	Lynda Johnston
Keith Elliott	Kate Rowley
Tommy Earl	Frank Beattie
Alan Steel	
Helen Fuller	

Peter Harrington - Treasurer - non voting, not an elected member of the board

Saint & Co are the Society's auditors

Web site www.united-trust.org.uk

The United Trust – registered office
FIFTEEN Rosehill
Montgomery Way
Rosehill Estate
Carlisle
CA1 2RW