

THE TRUST



Celebrating 125 years of Walsall Football Club.

We have a fantastic club here at Walsall FC, one that has been a stronghold in the heart of the community for the past 125 years. A club that was introduced to us by our parents, grandparents, wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, friends or other family members and a club that has played and continues to play a massive part in each and every one of our lives. We are Saddlers, we are proud to be Saddlers and we will continue to be Saddlers.

Things have certainly changed at the club over the years, grounds, owners, managers and players have all come and gone, but the one thing that has remained at the club from the get go is us, the supporters. We've followed our team for the last 12 and a half decades through the highs and the lows, through promotions and relegations, through glorious cup runs and lets face it, at times cup humiliation, but one thing you can guarantee is that Walsall FC will always have an hardcore following both home and away regardless of whether attendances swell or dwindle further because we support Walsall Football Club, we support 'our' football club and it is up to us to make sure that the club is here for many more generations to come.

FOREWORD BY TRUST SECRETARY STEVE DAVIES.

Welcome to the latest issue of THE TRUST.

Anyone who knows me will know that I am never short of a word or two when it comes to all things Saddlers, but even I was lost for words when it came to counting the money from Dean and Danielle Holden's recent bucket collection for the Meningitis Trust. I would like to offer an heart felt thank you on behalf of the Trust, the organisers and the Holden Family to each and every Walsall and Notts County supporter who donated. We would also like to thank Fiona, the fiancé of former Walsall FC Goalkeeper Steve Cherry for helping collect money in The Saddlers Club on the day.

We were absolutely amazed when we emptied the buckets and started counting the loose change which had been generously donated by both sets of supporters and were totally stunned to reach a final figure of £1181.54, a tremendous amount. A quick call to Dean later and both he and Danielle were just as stunned. Danielle had originally thought maybe £500 to £600 so this figure exceeded everyone's expectations.

There are other fund raising events coming up in the not to distant future which can be read about elsewhere on this newsletter including an Online Auction and an End of Season Party Night with two great live bands lined up to entertain you.

Please don't think for one minute though that the Trust Board are tied up with our charitable work alone. Strengthening bonds between the club, its supporters and the community which it serves and our commitment to gaining a representative voice on the Board of Directors at Walsall FC, have always been and will remain to be our main aims. There has also been a lot of work going on behind the scenes trying to secure the freehold of the Banks's Stadium since it was put up for sale around 2 years ago.

Thank you all for your support again this season, but in order for 'our' voice to grow, we need more people to join the WFST. It's only £2 a season to join, so why not recruit a friend next season? The louder our voice, the louder we will be heard.

Notice of Trust Annual General Meeting.

The Trust Board hereby give prior notice of the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Walsall Football Supporters Trust in accordance with its existing Constitution.

The meeting which is open to all members of the Trust will be held in the upstairs function room of The New Inns (The Pretty Bricks) Public House, 5 John Street, Walsall, West Midlands, WS2 8AF, on Thursday 18th April 2013 starting at 7:00pm.

The agenda of the Annual General Meeting will be posted on the Trust website at www.walsallfctrust.org.uk at least 21 days prior to the date of the meeting.

For more details on the Annual General Meeting, Trust Membership, or any other aspect of the Walsall Football Supporters Trust, please contact us via email at info@walsallfctrust.org.uk or speak to Trust Secretary Steve Davies on 07799835388.

End of Season Party Night at the Saddlers Club.

The Walsall Football Supporters Trust have teamed up with The Walsall Supporters Club to offer all Saddlers fans an invite to our end of season party night which is to take place in The Saddlers Club on Saturday 20th April following our final home game of the season against Bury.

We have two great bands confirmed for the night with Leicester based Rock'N'Pop outfit Charlie and the Martyrs taking the headline spot and Soft Rock covers band Lowfield who include Walsall FC's very own Match Day Music Co-Ordinator Michael Day amongst it's number as support.

Tickets to the event are priced at just £5 each with all profits going to Dean & Danielle Holden's fundraising for The Meningitis Trust and will be available from The Saddlers Club or Trust Secretary Steve Davies early March.

This promises to be a great night out for all Saddlers fans alike, so please don't miss out, let's get together and raise as much money as possible for this more than worth cause.



EBAY ONLINE AUCTION IN AID OF THE MENINGITIS TRUST.

The Trust will be holding an online auction which is due to start on ebay on Sunday 3rd March at approximately 9:00pm and finish on Sunday 10th March at 9:00pm which includes some great one off items up for grabs.

Search for NEWHALL SADDLER to view all items on the day of the Auction.

- **Signed Walsall FC Shirt autographed by Jimmy Walker, Craig Shakespeare, Pedro Matias, Colin Lee, Mick Kearns and Martin O'Connor** donated by a yet to be named Saddlers supporter. Item number 390546645867, start time 21:01.
- **A Signed England Shirt** autographed by England Manager Roy Hodgson and 15 of the England U21 International Squad donated by the FA. Item number 390546645867, start time 21:05. (Please note that although the auction will start at 99p, a bid of £50 has already been placed on this item).
- **Dean Holden's 3rd (Yellow) Kit (Match Worn)** donated by Walsall Football Club. Item number 390546658682, start time 21:10. Please note that although this item will be auctioned on the 3rd March, it will not be available until May. A request can be made to get the shirt autographed by the WFC playing staff.
- **A Signed Boxing Glove and Days Gym Training with Walsall's Very Own Boxing Champ Martin Gethin** donated by the man himself. Item number 390546671291, start time 21:20.
- **Holland v Northern Ireland International Programme autographed by Will Grigg – This was Will's debut International Match** donated by Trust Secretary Steve Davies. Item number 390546680335, start time 21:25.

All money raised from the auction will be donated to the Meningitis Trust in aid of Dean and Danielle Holden's fundraising for the charity and in memory of their late daughter Cici Milly.

Please note: A piece of signed Warwickshire County Cricket memorabilia will also be auctioned for the appeal at a later date which will be donated when the team return for the new season in April.

Details of this item will be released as and when they become available to us.

Walsall Football Club 125th Anniversary and awards dinner.



This years WFC awards dinner promises to be extra special this year with the inclusion of our 125th anniversary celebrations.

A number of former players and managers will be joining us for the event to mark a great milestone in the clubs history.

Each table of ten will be honoured by the addition of a former player or manager and their partner and we have some really great names already confirmed for the event.

The Trust already has a table booked for the dinner with a limited number of spaces still available and open to any member of the Walsall Football Supporters Trust.

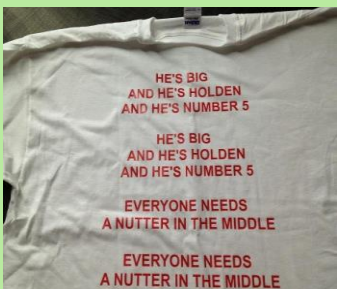
If you're interested in joining the Trust for this once in a lifetime experience at the price of just £25 per person, then please don't hesitate to contact Trust Secretary Steve Davies on 07799835388 or email info@walsallfctrust.org.uk to secure your seat.

Price includes a comedian on the night, the awards presentations and a mouth watering 4 course meal.

For more information, please look out for details in up and coming match day programmes or visit www.m6j9.com.

Dean Holden 'Nutter' T-Shirts still available.

There are still a number of Dean Holden 'Nutter' T-Shirts available to purchase from Trust Secretary Steve Davies, sizes S to 3XL.



The shirts are priced at just £12 each with all profits going to the charity of Dean's choice.

Anyone interested should contact Steve via email at walsall1888@aol.com or on 07799835388.

Former players pay their respect to former club doctor Ron McKechnie.

A number of members from the WFC Former Players Association recently attended the funeral of former club doctor Ron McKechnie to pay their respects.

Ron was a well respected member of the backroom staff at Walsall Football Club during the 60's and 70's and will be sadly missed by many of former WFC players.

The Trust send our condolences to Ron's family.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 16th March Former Players Day at The Banks's Stadium.

Both the Trust and the Club themselves are hoping for a great turnout for this event on the day that Walsall FC take on Crawley Town at the Banks's Stadium on Saturday 16th March.

A good number of former players have already confirmed their attendance for what promises to be a great day for the club and fans alike.

It has been hard work for Trust Secretary Steve Davies to be able to get everyone together for the event, but he hopes that it will pay off in the end and help raise membership of the WFC Former Players Association.

Former players already confirmed for the event include Colin Harrison, Granville Palin, Joe Boyden, Stan Bennett, Mick Evans, Ken Hodgkisson, Alec Jackson, Ray Wiggin, Jimmy McMorran, Tommy Watson, Alan Roper, Ian Roper, Dave Serella, Willie Penman, Nick Atthey, Keith Brown, Stan Jones and Alan Deakin.

We hope that more former players will be confirmed before the day.

Saturday 6th April 125th Anniversary Match v Sheffield United.

This promises to be a very special match in the history of our club and will hopefully be supported by as many Saddlers fans as possible.

All former WFC players have also been invited to join us for this special 125th Anniversary Match.

WALSALL SUPPORTERS TRUST FC

The Walsall Supporters Trust FC sadly went down heavily to our old neighbours West Bromwich Strollers recently. They are however one of the top Supporters Teams in the UK and being beaten by them is no disgrace.

Previously we went down to a narrow 4-3 away defeat at Coventry Vets.

It has been a bit of a stop start season for the lads and we can only hope that they get a few more games and a few more points under their belt before the end of the season.

Walsall FC Sierra Leone.



WFCSL are now involved in the Wilberforce Community League Group Stages, a tournament they reached the final of last season only to suffer the heartbreak of a defeat in a penalty shoot out.

They started well with a 2-1 win over Moko Town coming from a goal down to win with goals from Musa Keita and Arouna Kamara.

WFCSL keeper John Lamboi was prominent in the 2nd half making vital saves.

This was followed by a meeting with Bayoh FC, a team which WFCSL had previously lost to in a friendly. The game ended with a good 1-1 draw giving the team 4 points from 2 games and in a position to progress to the knock-out stages.

You can follow the progress of WFCSL by joining their facebook group .

Congratulations to Ben George.

The WFST would like to congratulate Ben George on his recent first team debut and hope will be the first of many for this very promising WFC player.