

THE TRUST



Welcome to The Trust

Hello and welcome to this special edition of the Walsall Football Supporters Trust Newsletter. Its primary purpose is to welcome our newest members to the fold, but is also a great way to recap on some of the things we have been doing over the past few years under the current board, highlights just some of the reasons why the Trust currently has the highest profile it has had in many years and also lets you know how we can help you as a supporter get your voice across to Walsall Football Club regarding any concerns, complaints or feedback you may have.

An Introduction to the WFST

The Walsall Football Supporters Trust is an independent, open and democratic non-profit making organisation originally formed in 2001 by a group of Walsall Football Club supporters with the key aim of strengthening bonds between the Club, its supporters and the local community for which it serves. Our key aim has always been to work towards obtaining a representative voice within the Club itself; a voice for the fans, by the fans and to seek an interest in any individual, company or society whose aims are consistent with those noted above and in particular, look to acquire an interest in Walsall Football Club Limited or any successor company.

With this in mind, it is crucial that we work with ALL supporters of the Club, including those with a stake in the future of the Club in order to gain as large a body of support as possible and seek to enter into partnership with local politicians of all parties, the players, staff and Board of Directors of Walsall FC and other official and independent supporter groups and associations.

The only way that our interests will be best served is through an effective and democratic body which works towards gaining a shareholding for all its members and a seat on the Board of Directors at the Club which carries the same voting right as each of its other members. It must also guarantee to constructively question what the Board of Directors is doing and the short, medium and long term plans of Walsall Football Club. Without this guarantee, nothing from investment made on the playing side, to ticketing issues and the Clubs involvement within the community will be fully addressed with us.

Charity Work, Fundraisers and other Events



During the past few years, the current Board, with the support of other volunteers have worked tirelessly organising a number of charity events and fundraiser's to help raise much needed funds for numerous charities and worthy causes within the local community, or who have an association in some way with Walsall FC. These Events include ● **Charity Walsall Supporters v Walsall Legends Football Matches** ● **Bucket Collections** ● **Christmas Toy Appeals** ● **Collections for the Walsall Food Bank** ● **Quizzes** ● **Auctions** and ● **Raffles**, as well as orchestrating other events such as the popular ● **Former Player Visits** ● **Band Nights** ● **the Limited Edition Super Jim 530 bottled beer** and more recently the ● **Alan Buckley Book Launch**.

As a result of these events and the ongoing generosity of Walsall FC supporters, we have so far made donations of £500 to Sands, £100 to The Alzheimer's Society, £800 to CRY, £2600 to The Meningitis Trust, donations of non-perishable food and

toys to the Walsall Food Bank, toy donations to the Walsall Manor Hospital Children's Ward, toy donations to Acorns Trust, £100 to the Bryntysilio Outdoor Activity Centre. £50 to the Shelfield School Walsall FC Flag Appeal and £84 to Dean Holden for a Memorial Garden in memory of his late daughter Cici Millie.

This season, our attentions turn to the Walsall FC Saddlers Learning Centre who provide innovative learning activities to help motivate, build self-esteem and raise awareness in team building, business and enterprise, problem solving to learn, work with others, to laugh and have fun using football and the setting of the Club (and school) as a medium for learning. The Trust will offer some financial support to the Learning Centre which is run and managed by Sue Lane whilst also making sure that the Trust itself can continue to run on a financially sound basis.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the ongoing support you have given the Trust throughout these events and for your outstanding generosity when it comes to giving to those less fortunate.

Up & Coming Events

Annual Christmas Toy Appeal and Food Collection – Saturday 30th November 2013

Banks's Stadium, Bescot Crescent, Walsall (close to main reception prior to kick off)



Members of the Trust Board will be on hand at the Banks's Stadium on Saturday 30th November when Walsall take on Port Vale to collect toys for the 2013/14 Christmas Toy Appeal for the Walsall Manor Hospital Children's Ward and non-perishable foods for the Walsall Food Bank.

Any toy donation should be made of NEW TOYS ONLY, unfortunately we can not accept used or second hand toys and any food donations should be non-perishable (i.e. dried foods, tinned foods, jarred foods) and should preferably be Well within their use by dates.

The collection will be made prior to the advertised 3pm kick off close to the main reception of the Banks's Stadium.

An Evening with Alan Buckley – Wednesday 11th December 2013 - £10 per ticket

The Saddlers Club, Bescot Crescent, Walsall



Following the success of Alan Buckley's Book Launch in The Saddlers Club this Saturday (19th October), the Trust Board are pleased to confirm that we will be holding An Evening with Alan Buckley event in the Saddlers Club on Wednesday 11th December with tickets priced at £10 each which includes a meal of Pie, Mash, Peas & Gravy.

Alan will be on hand to share his memories and stories of his time at Walsall Football Club and Fellows Park and will no doubt be happy to answer any questions you might like to put to him.

Copies of Alan's book 'Pass & Move – My Story' will also be on sale on the night making it the ideal opportunity for you to get your copy autographed and the ideal Christmas Present for any Saddlers fan out there. Any profits from the event will be donated to Alan's chosen charity, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

2014 Former Players Association Golf Day – March 2014 – Date & Cost to be confirmed.

Darnford Moors Golf Centre, Lichfield

Following the success of this years' Golf Day, the WFC FPA will be holding another Golf Day next spring to raise further funds for the Association. Once again, former WFC Manager Tommy Coakley will be our host for the event. Full details and playing costs will be advertised as and when they become available via the Trust website, Facebook, future newsletters and via our columns in the Walsall Advertiser and Walsall FC Match Day Programme.

Branching Out

Since what has essentially been a 'new lease of life' for the Trust under the current Board, we have had the opportunity over the past few years to branch out so to speak and to form association with and connect with a number of other groups closely connected with the WFST both in the UK and on an international scale, most notably the Walsall Supporters Trust FC which was formed on the back of our 2011 Walsall Fans v Walsall Legends Charity Match, The Walsall FC Former Players Association which was formed due to the connections with the Trust via the Former Player Visits to Walsall FC home games, The Saddlers Club, other like minded supporter groups and Trust's around the UK, Walsall FC Sierra Leone whose connection was made with the Trust online via Facebook, the Gunners

2 Club, who offer travel opportunities to Walsall FC away matches and in particular Walsall Football Club itself whom we have worked closely with in an attempt to build bridges which had previously been difficult to cross.

The association with such groups as those noted above is testament to how the Trust in its current form is evolving and to how tirelessly the Board work behind the scenes, on a voluntary basis, giving up much of their own free time to carry out their duties which is something that is quite often overlooked by many people.



The Walsall FC Former Players Association



The Walsall FC Former Players Association was formed by Trust Secretary Steve Davies and a number of former WFC players following the 2012 Walsall Supporters v Walsall Legends Charity Match and the success of previous former player visits to Walsall FC home games.

It meets regularly to discuss its business and to plan future fundraising events such as the forthcoming 2014 Golf Day which will be used to fund the running costs of the Association itself. Money raised at this year's event was used to purchase 2 season tickets and 2 car park passes at the Banks's Stadium to allow its Members to attend Walsall FC home games free of charge on a rotating basis. Any remaining funds have been, or will

used to cover the everyday running costs of the association including postage as many of the older members do not have internet access.

Assaulted Portsmouth Supporter thanks the Trust

The Trust has recently received contact from Andy Collins, the Portsmouth supporter who was viciously attacked at Walsall Railway Station following the Saddlers League One game against Portsmouth last season leaving him with a broken jaw amongst other injuries.

The email states that the trial against the six suspects arrested for the assault which was due to start today (21st October) was postponed on Friday. We will try and keep everyone updated on the outcome of the trial as and when details become available and only with the consent of Mr Collins.

The email goes on to say *'In the meantime, I would like to thank you (re: Trust Secretary Steve Davies) and all at WFC and the WFST, plus the many fans who expressed their concerns originally. In particular, I would like to thank the 2 independent witnesses who I am sure are both Walsall fans who I understand came forward to give statements to the BTP (British Transport Police) and had confirmed their willingness to attend the trial itself for the purpose of such. I believe it's down to their ID of the main assailant that secured his eventual guilty plea'*. Mr Collins later went on to say *'We are very grateful to them for having the courage to come forward. A credit to the community and to Walsall Football Club'*.

The Trust Board aim to keep in contact with Mr Collins throughout the trial and we will keep you informed of any sentences passed as a result, again this will only be done with the full consent of Mr Collins. We do not condone the actions of those responsible for this attack on an innocent football supporter.

Membership Fees! What are they used for?

This is a question often put to the Board by our members or prospective members as people like to know where their money is going. Quite simply put, your annual Membership Fees go towards your share of the Trust itself and towards the fees which the Trust has to pay to the governing bodies that regulate organisations such as the WFST.

The first £1 of your fee secures you 1 equal share in the Trust which allows you to have your say in how the Trust operates and how it interacts with Walsall Football Club. It also allows you as a fully paid up adult member (aged 16 years or over) to 1 equal vote in all matters arising at General Meetings and also allows you to stand for election to one of the offices of Trust within the WFST itself providing you do not contravene the Rules of the Trust (The Trust Rules can be found by visiting <http://www.walsallfctrust.org.uk/rules.htm>).

All other funds go towards the Trust's annual fees to both the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), the regulators for such Trust's as the WFST and Supporters Direct who represent over 200 supporters trust's with over 400,000 members throughout the UK and across Europe and who promote the value of supporter and community involvement in the ownership and running of clubs enabling trust's to secure influence and become a constructive voice in the way in which their club is run.

Here to voice your concerns

As a supporter of Walsall FC, should you have any genuine concerns, complaints or feedback you would like raising with the Club, we, as your representative will happily bring them up at our next regular Working Party Meeting with Walsall Football Club and The Saddlers Club.

Our aim is to get the whole Saddlers Family working as one and it is only through open dialogue that this achievement will ever be met. Please contact Trust Secretary Steve Davies on 07799835388 (mobile rates apply) or via email to walsall1888@aol.com regarding any matters you want discussing.

The Current Board

The current Trust Board consists of 11 members and is made up of the following names:-

Chairperson: Neil Ravenscroft	Vice Chairperson: Bob Thomas
Treasurer: Margaret Vardy	Secretary: Steve Davies
Membership Secretary: Richard Evans	Special Projects Manager: Trevor Reece
Board Trustee: Ian Astbury	Board Trustee: Mark Jones
Board Trustee: Mike Evans	Board Trustee: Mike Garratt
Board Trustee: Josh Piddock	

This, in conjunction with the Rules of the Trust leaves one available space on the Trust Board. If you are interested in joining the Board and think you may have something to offer and providing you comply with the Rules of the Trust, please contact Trust Secretary Steve Davies on 07799835388 or via email to walsall1888@aol.com to discuss things further.

Need to know more?

Full details of the Trust and the work we do can be found by visiting our official website at www.walsallfctrust.org.uk or by visiting us on [Facebook](#).

Alternatively, you can keep up to date with all the latest goings on via our columns in the Sports section of the Walsall Advertiser every Thursday or in the official Walsall FC Match Day Programme at all Walsall FC home games.

Finally, thank you for taking an interest in the Walsall Football Supporters Trust. Your continued support is essential to the existence of the Trust and we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support.

Walsall Football Supporters Trust is the trading name of Walsall Supporters Society Limited which is registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965-1978 and regulated (under the guidance of Supporters Direct) by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) – Registration Number IP30010R. For more information please visit www.walsallfctrust.org.uk.