

***** Takeover Talk *****

The most regular topic of conversation among Town fans (if my own experience is anything to go by) no longer relates to team selection and performances.

You will already have guessed from the headline exactly what has replaced the age old subject. Yes, currently rumbling into its third calendar year is the takeover of Halifax Town FC!

We have recently been informed that our frustrations are shared by all and sundry. Personally though, I regard the whole episode as puzzling rather than frustrating.

For one thing, it would be interesting to know a few specific figures, such as:

- how many Halifax Town shares exist?
- how many do the consortium control?
- how near are they to achieving 75%?

Incidentally, it would be nice if someone could explain why the “magic number” of 75% is so important, other than that it would allow the consortium to take the Club into private ownership if they so desired.

As I recently told the Evening Courier, a number of fans also find it strange that the issues which cost money (such as players

contracts) are committed to quite happily, while items which would increase revenue (such as season tickets, replica shirts and the appointment of a Commercial Manager) are all subjected to long delays.

As Town have played only three home league matches in the past three months, it does not take a genius to see that projected income must be well down. The Shaymen’s Business Plan must currently be about 12 months behind schedule.

Almost a year ago, the Supporters Club were specifically asked not to contact the consortium until the takeover had been completed; a request we have honoured without question. Unfortunately, this means we know very little about what is going on, and whether we could help in any way.

The (already paid for) fifty thousand shares we have been promised by successive Chairmen at the Club have yet to be issued, apparently due to the lack of Directors able to sign the certificate.

Despite the lack of information, it goes almost without saying that we continue to offer the consortium our full support. The Supporters Club would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that if and when we receive our shares, we will happily sign

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them across, and that when the time comes, we will assist in any way we are able.

FUNDRAISING FEATURE

It seems to get harder and harder to raise our annual £10k target, but the determination to reach this total overcomes most obstacles in our way. Although this season has been no exception, I am pleased to report that with the dedication of numerous people we are well on our way to reaching the magical figure. Even so, we won't be sitting back and admiring our efforts to date.

We cannot afford to rest on our laurels at this important time for the club. Events have to be carefully selected (as do the venues hosting them), as we always plan to maximise the amounts we can generate. Though planning and promoting takes up time, we all happily devote this for the love of Halifax Town AFC!

A season long scheme we are running is the 10p challenge, where we aim to collect the 14,440 coins it will take to surround The Shay pitch. We won't actually be putting them around the edge of the pitch - we simply don't have the time to do so, and they would probably be trampled underfoot by the linesmen anyway! At present we are just under 50% of the way there and it would be pleasing to achieve our goal this season. If you do have any spare 10p coins please deposit them in the receptacles inside both turnstiles on match days.

Whilst most of us were sleeping off the excesses of Christmas Day, a small but dedicated group of Supporters Club members met at The Shay at 8am to walk the 14 miles to the away game at Farsley Celtic. Whilst they were rewarded with one of the worst performances in a long while, they consoled themselves with the fact that Halifax Town Supporters Club was £750 richer for their efforts. Such dedication deserves respect even if you do have to question their sanity!

So what else have we been up to? Race Nights form a regular source of income, and Chris Green (Volunteer Arms, Copley)

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and Tim Conway (Brown Cow, Highroad Well) each hosted one recently. Chris, Dave and Vicky Neatby produced this years Supporters Club calendar, which sold very well. The "Goals, Goals, Goals" DVD proved as popular as ever.

We perpetually rely on the support of individual members, and this year, Steve Wrigley (who runs the Dog Inn at Over Peover in Cheshire) has excelled. Steve participated in the Great North Run in Newcastle, raising money jointly for HTSC and the East Cheshire Hospice. We were delighted when he recently presented us with a cheque for £820. A superb effort, Steve!

Please note that Steve's pub is very close to the Jodrell Bank Observatory, so if you fancy a day out and haven't a clue where to go, then look no further.

I hope this has given you a flavour of what we get up to. We always rely on your involvement, and with this in mind, would ask that you support our next confirmed event, which is:

Thurs Feb 21st – Football Quiz, South Stand Bar, 8pm

Teams of 4 are required. Entry is only £1.50 per person, and there will be a cash prize for the winning team. We need confirmation of your entry by contacting Kelly Gilchrist on HX 346029 (after 6pm) or by E-Mail at kellygilchrist@halifaxafc.co.uk

Other events are in the pipeline and we'll publicise these in the usual places as soon as we have details.

ALL THAT JAZZ.

The Supporters Club have been given a large number of cassette tapes, which the previous owner has transferred onto discs. He has requested that we offer them to anyone who may be interested for a small donation. They range from well known to fringe artists and we are informed that they are a must have item for any jazz fan. Speak to any committee member if you are interested.

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Treasurers Chest

2007 was a very interesting year as far as raising money for the football club was concerned. It started with the continued commitment to raising our usual £10000 by the end of the season, but due to the well publicised financial problems faced by the club, we (along with the other supporters groups) set out to simply raise as much as we possibly could. With your help, we actually managed to raise in the region of £15000, and at the end of 2007 were well on course to raise the next £10000, due at the end of the present season.

At this point I think it should be stressed that without the day to day financial help of the proposed take over consortium, all our efforts would undoubtedly have been in vain, and our football club would no longer be afloat. Let us all hope that the outstanding issues will soon be overcome so that the future of OUR football club will be secured for the present.

2007 saw a variety of events designed to make money while raising the profile of the Supporters Club. These included the trolley dash at Tesco, the (ongoing) 10p challenge

and an Elvis tribute night at Claremount Club. Old favourites, such as race and quiz evenings, raffles and the all important bucket collection continued as usual. For 2008, we are looking for even more NEW events, that should hopefully include a ROCK NITE and a sponsored balloon release.

Just one further comment regarding our aforementioned 2008 calendars. The first calendar in 2006 cost £6. In 2007 this was reduced to £4-50, but this year, due to our generous advertisers, we have managed to get the price down to just £3, a great effort by all concerned!

KEEP UP YOUR SUPPORT - YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU.

Dave Neatby.

Junior Blues

On the social side, we are currently exploring the possibility of relaunching the Junior Blues Saturday Experience, in a similar vein to how Paddy Roche and his team operated a few years ago. Hopefully, we will be in a position to begin by the start

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of the 2008-09 season but there is a lot of hard work to do before then.

If you would be interested in assisting with the development of Town fans of the future, please let us know.

13 Kirk Lane

Hipperholme

Halifax

HX3 8EU

Stop Press: Goodbye Lee Butler

The Shay will seem a lot quieter in future, following this week's announcement that Goalkeeping Coach (and unofficial Entertainments Manager) Lee Butler is heading for pastures new - Doncaster to be precise. Since his arrival, Lee has always been the life and soul of everything worth knowing about at our Club, and his larger than life presence will be sadly missed. Good luck in your new venture Lee, from everyone at the Supporters Club.

on or before Saturday 1st March. A prize will be awarded to the first correct answer received. In the event of a tie, a draw will decide the winner.

1. Lawrie McMenemy is a non-executive director at which football club?
2. Which ten teams from outside the Premiership have reached the fifth round of this season's FA Cup?

Steve's Ten 2 Tackle

You should know the routine by now; just answer the questions, and get your results to Steve Kell at

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3. Which then non-league club defeated Burnley, who were then in the top flight, at Turf Moor in the 1974/75 FA Cup?
4. Which current Manchester United player was loaned out to Bournemouth in 2000 and then to Royal Antwerp in 2001?
5. How many England caps did Steve Bruce win?
6. In 2000/01, who won the Bundesliga for the third time in a row?
7. Who was the only member of the beaten Manchester United 1979 Cup Final team never to win an international cap?
8. Which manager left Carlisle in July 2001?
9. Which was Jamie Forrester's first league club?
10. In which year did Aldershot drop out of the football league?

Supporters Club Survey - February 2008

1. If the Club could find a way of allowing transfers between the Skircoat Stand and the South Stand, would you actually do this?
2. How would you wish the Supporters Club to represent you as an individual?

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6. When the commercial department becomes fully functional, how could Town best increase their commercial income?

3. Do you think Town's Directors should consult supporters groups before making decisions?

If so, regarding which subjects?

4. What could we improve to encourage you to attend Supporters Club meetings?

5. What single improvement or change would most enhance the matchday experience for you?

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