

Programme notes v Cambridge

Over the past few weeks we have been very busy with several events taking place in the Trust bar which we are pleased to say were very well received.

First up we had a questions and answers evening with the manager and his assistant Anthony Limbrick together with our two recent signings from Sweden, Ludvig and Seb, as special guests. This was attended by over 100 fans who really enjoyed the evening with lots of interesting questions and stories. It our intention that we do this type of event twice a year, at the start of the season and half way through.

Next, we had our open evening with John Fenty for which we took a lot of criticism from some quarters before the evening even took place. The concerns proved to be totally unwarranted with another well attended evening which was informative and well organised. Not surprisingly, the potential new stadium at Freeman St was well covered and it was good to hear that the club are enthusiastic provided the economics can be identified and proven to be beneficial. What is very clear is that the project is still at a very early stage and realistically we are going to be at Blundell Park for at least 5 more years and probably longer. This means that work to update some of the facilities at Blundell Park, particular for the disabled and ladies, can no longer be deferred which will result in considerable cost to the club despite help from grant funding. It is possible that as an organisation we might be able access funds on a matching basis that the club cannot and so we have decided to launch a crowdfunder campaign to help with the cost of the improvements. Irrespective of whether or not we can obtain any additional funding any money raised will be a big help. The scheme will be launched very shortly and will feature rewards such signed photos, balls, shirts etc as well as the ability to make a simple donation. Please support if you can.

We also took the opportunity on the night to formally sign the memorandum of understanding which we have agreed with the club having worked with Supporters Direct on what they consider to be a best practice model for fan engagement. The subsequent communication of this has received wide reaching praise from other clubs not just in the UK but in Europe as well. There are many other clubs who would give anything for the level of interaction we have at GTFC and it is something that is not always appreciated, there are some fan organisations who get not information at all and not allowed any dialogue. God forbid that ever happens here.

Two days later we had a completely different type of evening when we put on a games night for fans to take on players at a variety of different events such as table tennis, pool, table football and FIFA. Again, a very well attended event with lots of kids and adults keen to take on their heroes. The players put forward a young team of Harry Clifton, Elliot Embleton, Reece Hall-Johnson, Matty Pollock and Ollie Battersby. These young pros were a credit to themselves and the club, nothing was too much trouble and everyone attending commented what a fantastic evening they had. This is the first time we have tried something like this, and it is certainly something we will be looking to repeat later in the year.

Today, in conjunction with YDA, we are launching a new fundraising project with the introduction of the Mariner Scratch Card. At £2 each there is the chance to win £1,000 as well as lots of club-based prizes such as shop vouchers and footballs. These will be sale around the ground bars and are strictly for over 16's only. If anyone would like to get involved selling these either on matchdays or during the week at work etc then please get in touch, we are offering 10% commission on all sales.

Hopefully we can keep the unbeaten run going today, as usually let's get behind the lads.

UTM

Mariners Trust Board