

### Programme Notes for Northampton match.

Good afternoon and a big welcome to the supporters of today's opponents Northampton Town. It provides a good opportunity for us to pay tribute to the pioneers of the Supporters Trust movement.

It was back in January 1992 when 600 people attended a public meeting in response to a financial crisis at the club. The result of this was the formation of the Supporters Trust which at that time had a twofold aim which was to raise funds to help the financial situation and also, more importantly, to achieve involvement in the day to day running of the club. This was soon achieved, despite the barriers put up by the then chairman, and for the first time in English football the fans of a football club were totally involved in its financial management. This started a revolution across the country with many other club's fans forming supporters trusts in order to have a more formal and structured relationship with their club and many have gone on to either have full ownership, part ownership or high level of involvement through structured dialogue. We all have Brian Lomax and others from NTST to thank for showing the way.

Having said that, it hasn't all been plain sailing financially for the cobblers since 1992 and in 2002 they had serious financial issues caused by the collapse of ITV digital (sounds familiar!) and a save our season campaign was launched which resulted in the supporters raising £230K to help keep the club afloat. Now of the course the club are going through turmoil with a police investigation into the "missing millions" from a £10.25m council loan towards the redevelopment of the stadium. As a result of this the NTST are once again very active, this time looking at community ownership models including a partnership between fans and private ownership. We wish them well with project and we will follow with interest how it develops, it may well result in a model for the likes of ourselves to follow.

We have recently held one of our regular meetings with the club management team and once again it was a very constructive meeting. Items discussed included, season tickets, commemorative bricks, exile scheme, scratch card launch and summer beer festival. We will communicate more details on these as they unfold, and you can find the minutes of the meeting on our website [www.marinerstrust.co.uk](http://www.marinerstrust.co.uk).

Finally, we have our popular Football Quiz evening on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 starting at 7.30pm. Entry is £5 per team (maximum 4 people) and tickets can be purchased online. Alternatively just contact us at [enquiries@marinerstrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@marinerstrust.co.uk) or tell one of the trust board members register to register your team. Enjoy the match. UTM