

Programme notes v Bradford City

Good afternoon and welcome to this afternoon's exciting local derby against Bradford City. We welcome our friends from the Bradford City Supporters Trust and indeed all Bantam fans to Blundell Park for what should be a great game.

For this season we are proud to have Sands as our nominated local charity. Here is some information about them from secretary Sandii Raithby.

"Grimsby & Cleethorpes Sands are committed to supporting anyone effected by the death of a baby. We raise funds to provide vital research and training for medical professionals, employers, funeral directors and any other organisation who may have contact with families at the tragic time of the death of their baby. We also provide a monthly support meeting for bereaved parents to come and speak to our specially trained befrienders and meet other people who can relate to their situation.

We are keen to ensure every area of our community know who we are and what we are doing. You may be aware of the recent viral sensation that is "Sands United" - a group of bereaved fathers who come together and use football as a support mechanism. We also have a Sands United here in Grimsby & Cleethorpes. This is a fantastic outlet for fathers, brothers, uncles, grandads and godfathers who find traditional routes of support daunting.

We are also very proud to have a male befriender available at most of our support meetings- this is fantastic for any men out there who might not feel comfortable offloading their troubles on a female.

We are delighted that the Mariners Trust have chosen us as their charity of the year for the 2019-2020 season. This partnership will help us reach more men, teenage boys and even women and girls who do not feel like an ordinary support group is for them. If you would like to know more, please visit our Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/grimsbycleesands/> for our support groups and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/242146263362896/?ref=share> for Sands United."

In addition to helping Sands we are also offering 2 free tickets to every home game to charities or individuals who work with underprivileged children who would not normally be able to visit Blundell Park. If you would like to be considered or would like more information then please contact us at enquiries@marinerstrust.co.uk.

We have had lots going on over the summer with the Beer Festival and the Community Day both of which were great days and we would like to thank everyone who came along to make them such a success. We have also been working closely with club on improving the family experience at the club and we delighted that we now have a family ticket option for the main stand and you will also see improved pre match and half time entertainment as the season progresses. We are involved in an ongoing project aimed at achieving family excellence and we will keep everyone informed as this progresses. We will also be working closely with our friends involved in the Fans of the Future initiative to ensure we are doing everything to encourage as many children and families as possible are coming to Blundell Park on a regular basis.

Enjoy the game and let's be loud and proud for the lads. UTM

