

## Programme Notes v Doncaster

Good evening and welcome to this evenings game against Doncaster in the first round of the Carabeo Cup. Interest in this competition tends to be very low in the early rounds but nevertheless it should be a very good game and the first under the impressive new floodlights. It would be great to have a good cup run and draw a top premiership team at home but first we need overcome a very good Doncaster team who as we saw in pre-season have some excellent players.

Last week we had a very enjoyable question and answer evening with the Manager, Anthony Limbrick, James Mckeown and Max Wright and we would like to thank them for taking the time to come along and also everyone who attended. What came over was a great spirit among the players and a real sense of purpose from the management team that they know exactly what they are trying to do and have a plan to do it. Time will tell but we certainly have a greater sense of optimism this season compared to last.

Our next event will be early November when we will be running another of our popular quiz nights which will include teams from the management and the players. There will also be a short Q&A and chance to have photos and autographs. Exact details of date, time etc will be issued shortly.

We have been working closely with club to look at ticket packages that would be attractive to families, shift workers and exiles. We are very pleased that the club have now issued a number of initiatives that cater for these groups and hopefully they will prove popular. The difficulty the club face with this type of initiative is to the keep the right balance with season tickets and although we would have preferred a bit better value on the shift worker and exile scheme we fully respect the difficulty in striking the right balance. The key strength of the shift worker and exile schemes is that they give ticket priority which we know is a key consideration for some people. For those that don't want or need ticket priority then the Pick Six option simply gives a 10% discount for those prepared to commit to buying a six-ticket bundle. We think this will also be a good product for Birthday/Christmas presents.

The family ticket offers great value for a family of four in the family section of the main stand which is part of another initiative we are working on with the club to improve the match day experience for families. We are delighted that the club have appointed Kelly Billings as family coordinator to replace Gill Dobbs who retired at the end of last season. Kelly brings great knowledge and experience of attending football with her own children having followed Town home and away for many seasons. You will have already seen some new initiatives such as the flag bearers and match ball carrier and as the season progresses there will be lots more pre match and half-time entertainment, more interaction with mighty mariner and pre match activities in the lounges for children. There will also be lots more events for children outside of matchdays and many of these will involve the players. If anyone has any ideas on how to make GTFC a more family friendly club then please do not hesitate to contact us, both the club and ourselves are determined for us to be known as one of the best family clubs in the EFL.

There are a number of other things we are working on such as modernising the ticketing system and introducing a fan zone. Although these will take a little longer to introduce there is a very positive attitude from the club to find affordable solutions and we are very confident that we will have some positive news on these in the coming weeks.

Finally a plug for a couple of initiatives that are being run independently but we are very happy to support. **Ballgazers** is a fun game which involves making predictions on a number of random football events between September and December and costs £10 to enter. The YDA will receive 30% of the pot with 70% paid out in prizes. Contact us for more information or look out for forms around the bars. The other initiative is **Fans of the Future** which we have highlighted before and very much fits with the objective of encouraging more kids to Blundell Park. You will see various activities from them in the coming weeks and months, please support if you can.

Enjoy the game,

UTM