

# MARINERS TRUST

CONNECTING CLUB & COMMUNITY

**Programme Notes. GTFC v Forest Green Rovers – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

**Written by Dave Roberts**

Welcome everyone to today's opening game of the new season against Forest Green Rovers. Hopefully there will be a good crowd and atmosphere for what promises to be an enthralling game against our visitors from Nailsworth. We wish their supporters a safe journey for the long 420 mile round trip.

Last Sunday we held our annual Open Day at Blundell Park in conjunction with the GTFC Sports and Education Trust. Following 7 weeks of glorious sunshine and no rain it was just our luck that the heavens opened and the wind howled which unfortunately meant some of the outdoor events being cancelled and others moved indoors. As we arrived early in the morning to prepare we feared that hardly anyone would venture out in the awful weather, but we should have known that our fans are made of sterner stuff and hundreds of you turned up to see the players train and then get their autographs and photos. We would like to thank everyone for being so patient as we sorted out queuing arrangements to see the players and inevitably with so many people wanting to photos as well the waiting time was quite long. It must be said the players and management were fantastic as they dealt with every fan request and stayed as long as it took to ensure everyone got what they wanted. The manager merits a special mention as he was simply making his way around the ground when he was stopped by one or two people for autographs and then before he knew it a long queue had formed and that was basically as far as got for the next 2 hours. He didn't just quickly scrawl his signature but also chatted to people asking their names and then writing messages and dedications. It is so refreshing to have a management team and set of players who really understand the value of bonding with the fans and so let's make sure we really show our appreciation and get right behind them today and help drive them on to victory.

You will have seen that after a few seasons of trying we have finally managed to agree with the club a scheme which caters for the likes of shift workers who are regular attendees but can't get to enough games to warrant buying a season ticket. The issue has always been about trying to get the right balance of rewarding those people but not to the potential detriment of season tickets. The product on offer hopefully achieves this representing an 8% discount versus normal early bird prices and importantly giving holders second priority after season ticket holders for restricted ticket games. We will be interested to see the uptake for this and welcome any feedback.

As always, we are interested to hear from anyone who has some spare time and wish to get more involved with the Mariners Trust particularly in the areas of membership and communications. If you would like to find out more, please e-mail us at [enquiries@marinerstrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@marinerstrust.co.uk).

Enjoy the game

Mariners Trust Board.

