

Programme notes v Doncaster & Peterborough

Welcome to the pre-season games as we build up to our opening fixture away to Morecambe and then the exciting first home game of the season against Bradford City. At the time of writing the club have made four new signings so far and with the prospect of another couple before the season starts the squad is shaping up nicely and at this early stage certainly looks to have more of a goal threat than last season.

Obviously, the key talking point in the summer has been the prospect of new owners for the club and a new stadium on the docks. As reported in the local telegraph and on social media we have been involved in discussions and kept informed by the club since the start of the process for which we are very grateful. It is absolutely vital from our point of view that the long-term sustainability of the club is secured and that the fans and community are at the heart of any future development. A new stadium, with the right financial terms, is the key for us to be more competitive on a sustainable basis and so hopefully the scheme can be agreed shortly, and we can look forward with confidence. In the meantime, life at Blundell Park continues and it is great to see some of the improvements that have taken place particularly the ladies and disabled toilet facilities in the main stand. It is certainly an exciting time to be involved in the Trust and as always, we are looking for more people to get involved whether it be on a casual basis or part of the board. If you have the time and commitment and would like to understand more then please get in touch with us at enquiries@marinerstrust.co.uk and we will be happy to discuss.

On Sunday 28th July we have the annual community day which starts at 10am and finishes around 3pm. This year the theme is around diversity, inclusion and welcoming with lots of diverse entertainment as well as activities such as giant dart board, football target and football speed game. The players will be doing a training session followed by autographs and photos. There will also be a group photo with the players for everyone turning up in a replica shirt. It promises to be a great day with the bar open and hot food and drinks available throughout. Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Another date for your diary is on Tuesday 30th July we are having a pre-season Q &A with Michael Jolley, Anthony Limbrick and a couple of the new players. As well as the Q & A there will be plenty of time to have a chat and get autographs and photos. The event is in the Trust bar which will open at 7pm for 7.30pm start and tickets are just £4 which includes your first drink. Accompanied U18's are very welcome and admitted free of charge. Tickets are available online, from club office or bars and on the night subject to availability.

Finally, you hopefully will have seen the **Fans of the Future** initiative which has been put together by a group of fans looking to give every year 6 pupil in the local area a free GTFC replica shirt with the objective of gaining their support for life. We are very pleased to support this initiative and hope that everyone can get behind it and make a real difference to the future of the club. Please look out for the various activities as they unfold over the next few weeks and also you can donate on the crowdfunding page www.crowdfunder.co.uk/fans-of-the-future.

As ever thanks for your support

Mariners Trust Board.