

# The Mariners Voice



December 2007

Issue 3

## A VOICE FROM THE CROWD

Just one mans opinions

As we approach the Christmas period of the 2007/ 2008 football season opinions, views and advice abound amongst the supporters of South Shields FC.

It strikes me at this point in time that there are a number of factors to be taken into consideration when attempting to make an accurate assessment of the clubs progress.

The arrival of the new regime last season has brought about a feeling of optimism amongst the supporters, which is perhaps reflected by the re-establishment of the supporters association. While there is sometimes expressed disappointment with certain results, I feel there is generally a strong positive undercurrent at the club at this point in time.

While some fans have suggested that Studs lacks experience at management level, there is surely no better way to gain experience than by managing.

I am sure that Studs has learned a lot from his first season in charge and I am in no doubt he will continue to do so. A positive feature of his appointment has been his ability to attract a number of local players to Filtrona Park, something that was not always achieved by his predecessors. Furthermore he has been successful in keeping together the nucleus of last seasons squad which can be very important when attempting to foster continuity between players and coaching staff regardless of the level at which you play your football.

In my opinion it is abundantly clear that we need a proven goal scorer to convert more of the numerous chances we are creating. This aside I feel we are generally stronger as a unit and as the season progresses this should pay dividends.

There is a well known phrase “together like the folk o Shields”. It says something of the fortitude and spirit of our townfolk. I feel that we as a club, by virtue of that spirit should grasp this opportunity, players, officials and supporters to move the club forward – Together.....like the folk o Shields.

John Prendegast

Welcome to the December edition of the Mariners Voice. Thanks once again to Phil and Gary for their contributions. This month we also have a new section “ A Voice From The Crowd”. This is your opportunity to have your thoughts aired. Every month the thoughts and feelings of a different fan will be included. So if you'd like the chance to put a few thoughts forward please email [m.viney@smartbuildsolutions.co.uk](mailto:m.viney@smartbuildsolutions.co.uk)

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry, and very successful Christmas.