

The Mariners Voice



January 2008

Issue 4

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Happy New Year

As the New Year begins its traditional to reflect upon the year just gone and to make resolutions for the future.

Looking back over the season so far it's with mixed emotions. Some of the football played in the pre season build up, and in the first few weeks of the season was exceptional, and perhaps gave us some unrealistic expectations.

Conversely some of the more recent results have been very disappointing and have left some of us perhaps feeling overly negative.

I really can't help feeling the truth lies somewhere in between the two extremes.

We sit in a disappointing 8th place, but that's not the whole story. We've got two or three games in hand on our promotion chasing rivals. Despite our perceptions at times, we do have the best goal stats in the league, decent defensive stats and by far the best support. We can't allow ourselves to become too negative and lose sight of the good amongst the disappointing.

Promotion isn't going to be easy, but it never was going to be as easy as some of us perhaps thought it would be. But it is still achievable. There are a lot of points to be won and lost in this campaign and there'll be twists and turns a plenty.

Our role as supporters has to be to stay positive, support the team to the best of our ability and to enjoy the ride.

CUMMON SHIELDS

Penrith Town	20	15	2	3	47	20	27	47
Whickham	22	14	2	6	48	38	10	44
Birtley Town	24	13	3	8	44	39	5	42
Ryton	21	13	1	7	48	25	23	40
Guisborough	21	11	3	7	45	30	15	36
Thornaby	20	11	3	6	42	33	9	36
Sun RCA	21	11	2	8	42	34	8	35
South Shields	19	10	4	5	46	29	17	34

Race Night

South Shields Football Club are hosting a “ **Night at the Races**” at Filtrona Park on Friday 1st February.

Ticket are only £3.00 and that includes a pie and pea supper.

The evening begins at 7pm.

Why not get yourself along, have a laugh with the lads and support the club at he same time.

Tickets are available NOW. Order yours now to avoid disappointment

Pies! Without worrying
if Mick V got there first!

A Voice In The Crowd by Steve Sutton

Last Saturday’s draw at Team Northumbria was disappointing and sums up the current season – lots of effort and hard work, some excellent play, and nothing to show in terms of points. This is creating a challenge for everyone at the club as while it is impossible to criticise individual players, the results are not coming our way and as other teams progress we have more catching up to do. In a way it is unfortunate that we did so well in pre-season, as this raised false expectations and hopes in some fans.

The club has come a long way in the last 18 months, though it is regrettable that we have had to pretty well “start from scratch” after much of the really good work and development of the mid 1990s was wasted.

For success in today’s non-league world, many things are required; look at the clubs progressing quickly – Histon, Truro, Chasetown, etc – as examples. It’s a mixture of enthusiasm, determination, efficient management and admin, and of course financial backing. We seem to be developing the first three; for the fourth we could do with much more involvement by larger Shields based business, but traditionally since re-forming, we don’t seem to have been attractive to the senior business people of the town. Its chicken and egg of course – success on the pitch attracts sponsors and backers; their money creates success on the pitch!

“ enthusiasm, determination, efficient
management and admin, and of
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At least there's a likelihood that SSFC will once again be South Tyneside's senior club next season, with Roofing struggling at the bottom of Div. One. Whilst wishing them well, it would be nice to assert our true position as the borough's premier team.

On the fans' forum some of the more senior supporters are sometimes criticised for being negative; I think that if sometimes frustration creeps in, it's because everyone has a mental picture of the club at a particular time of their life and unfair comparisons are drawn.

For me that time would be around 1968-1971 when SSFC was among the top ten non-league sides in the country without doubt (remember the super home and away friendlies against Cambridge United for the unofficial "nonleague top team"?).

Sometimes we can forget that today's world is very different; computer games, shopping malls and Sky TV have seen to that. Long gone are the days when 20 special corporation buses used to stop of at the Hall disgorging spectators! Yes it's very different so we have to think of new ways of attracting folk, and making the club stronger on and off the pitch. The committee and playing staff deserve no less. And we should be happy to look around to see how others do it.

With determination and effort, we WILL get that lucrative cup run; we WILL get back to the Northern Premier League. It won't be this year or next, so let's not panic about this season's inconsistencies and look a bit further ahead.



"South Tyneside's senior club"

Please No Swearing

It's not unknown for football supporters to swear.....No, Really!!

We are no different!

However while acknowledging the passions and frustrations we all feel during every game, lets try to vent them in a more family friendly manner.

Swearing at, and abusing the officials during games may feel right at the time, but it isn't going to positively influence the ref nor is it helping the clubs image..... or bank balance.

Let's try to curtail the abusive language out there.

Bad Jokes Instead

Hours after the end of the world, an argument broke out between heaven and hell.....(Shields and Jarra really)

God (in the guise of the committee) invited the devil down from his rooftop hiding place....for conversations to find a way to resolve this dispute quickly.

Satan, the roofer, proposed a footy game between heaven and hell.

God, always fair, told the devil, 'The heat must be affecting your brain, the game would be so one sided, don't you know all the "good" players go to heaven?'

The devil, smiling, responded "Yeah, but we've got all the refs'..."

And isn't it the truth!!!!

The Inside Track by Philip Reay

I would like to wish all supporters a happy New Year on behalf of the Committee and players, thanks for your superb support home and away on good days and bad; we hope that we can push on and move back up the table in the New Year and clinch one of the promotion places come the end of the season.



The last month has been one of great frustration both on and off the pitch; on the pitch a combination of bad weather and floodlight failure has seen us inactive for 4 weeks and we certainly looked a little ring rusty on Saturday against Team Northumbria, off the pitch we are being frustrated as transfer targets and other clubs try to hold us to ransom when we look to sign players.

The one piece of good news was the return of Nathan Wright from Gretna, can you believe we have had to wait 3 months for the international transfer window to open to re-sign Nathan. Studs is in negotiations with several clubs and he is hopeful of bringing in some new faces to the club in the next week or two, watch this space.

Once again the Filtrona faithful turned up on mass to a windy, rainy Team Northumbria to support the lads, Team Northumbria must be the only student facility I have visited without a bar! And how do you run out of pies when only a couple of people have been served, it makes you appreciate the hard work done by long serving committee person and supporter Janet Honeyman at each home game. I was particularly impressed with the non-abusive vocal support from behind the goal.

To help raise funds for the club there is a race night being held at the Club on Friday 1 February, tickets are priced at £3 and there will be a pie and pea supper see any committee member for tickets, the more we can raise the more money we have in the transfer kitty.

Once again thanks for your support and if you have any comments about how we can improve the club have word with me, also if anyone would like to help out on match days or write an article for the programme I would like to speak to you.

Onwards and upwards.

Young Mariners by Christopher Reay

When Mick asked me to write something for the newsletter I felt pretty good as I was being accepted as a member of the club with an opinion about the club and not just a kid.

I have been going to Shields matches for as long as I can remember but my first memory was not really about football but the superb chips at half time at Crook Town, the game was exiting and we drew 4-4 but it's the chips I remember most.

I also remember going to Peterlee to watch us play Murton and trying to get on the camera because the TV were there making a documentary about Murton because they had a hole in their pitch.

I don't just go to games because my dad takes me, when he is at work I still go to the games and my favourite trip was away to Retford in the FA Vase even though we lost. I also had a great night when we beat Penrith on the last day of the season to stay in the league; the atmosphere that night was the best I can remember.

The proudest moment I had was winning the supporter of the year award at the end of the 2005-06 season.

The last two seasons have been my favourite because we are playing better football and we win more games than we lose, I hope that we can go at least one better this season and win promotion to the first division. When we get promoted I will be able to visit the six grounds I need to complete the set of all Northern League grounds.

I like the away games the best because we always get a lot of supporters at the game and I enjoy standing with everyone grieving the goalie, not everyone enjoyed the noise we made when we took air horns to the games.

I also think it is good that the supporters don't have a go at our players when we lose we support our team not boo them like you hear at Premier league grounds.

I hope that we can get a couple of new players to make the squad stronger because I would hate to see us miss out on promotion this year; I was pleased to see Nathan Wright back at the club on Saturday and am looking forward to some more new signings soon.

I like supporting Shields because everyone knows everyone and we have a good time at the games and the players listen to us when we talk to them they don't ignore the supporters.

From The Man Himself: Gary Steadman

Hi all supporters

its brilliant to see all you mariners in full support of your team home and away, couldn't help but notice the great support at Team Northumbria.

Just to keep you in touch over the last month, first of all a big thank you to Ben Holden for this season in helping us get into a promotion challenge, but his words to me on Saturday was he had too much work commitments to continue .

Fortunately for us one keeper goes out and another comes in, which is Nathan Wright formally of Darlington F.C and Gretna who had a spell last season with us.

We,ve also just signed Hordens striker Willie Crewe this week who will make his debut against Hebburn on Friday night. Hopefully we will have a couple more in before the end of the month.

We will still try and compete in the transfer market the best we can, to bring a team capable of going up into the first div where we belong .Some of the money these so called good players want is frightening at times, but we will bide our time until we get the right players in (at the right price) and move onwards and upwards.

Diary of Events

Sat, 19/01/2008	South Shields	Ryton	ANL2
Sat, 26/01/2008	Horden C.W.	South Shields	ANL2
Tue, 29/01/2008	South Shields	Thornaby	E Armstrong Cup 3rd Round
Fri, 01/02/2008	Race Night at Filtrona Park		7 pm
Sat, 02/02/2008	South Shields	Birtley Town	ANL2
Sat, 09/02/2008	South Shields	Prudhoe Town	ANL2
Sat, 16/02/2008	Crook Town	South Shields	ANL2