

The Mariners Voice



March 2008

Issue 6

The Final Push

Well what a month! How great was that?

On the 26th January we were in 6th place 8 points behind Whickham in 2nd. Today, just one month and 6 games later.....(ALL WINS).....We sit in 2nd place and 2 points ahead of Whickham, and in a great position for the final push.

Tremendous lads! Well done.

Now we face the final 10 games. 10 games between us and the 1st division, or us and disappointment. This final push is the tough one.

We have an incredibly tough looking run in. 6 out of 10 away from home, and 4 of the 10 games against teams still in the promotion race. This still isn't going to be easy. But I really believe that the more difficult a goal is to achieve the sweeter it tastes.

We have a team now with ability in all areas. A team that are confident, a team that grafts their socks off and a team with bottle that don't give in.

We have to do our extra bit too. We need to take away the home advantages. We need to get to every game in numbers, be visible in our colours, and we need to make as much noise as possible.

This is the final push, and in 10 games time we want to be able to look back on this and say we did EVERYTHING possible. On and off the pitch.

Wear your colours, be proud, be loud.....CUMMON SHIELDS!!

Online and want to read more?

<http://south-shields-mariners.blogspot.com>

Want to have your say?

<http://forum.southshields-sanddancers.co.uk/boards/viewforum.php?f=59>

Inside This Issue

- 1 Exciting Times.
- 2/3 A Voice in the Crowd.
- 4 A Historical Resume.
- 5 The Inside rack.
- 6 The Man Himself

Pos Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Penrith Town	27	19	4	4	56	27	29	61
2 South Shields	28	18	4	6	79	41	38	58
3 Whickham	29	17	5	7	64	48	16	56
4 Thornaby	29	16	5	8	65	48	17	53
5 Ryton	28	16	1	11	60	37	23	49
6 Sunderland RCA	26	14	3	9	56	41	15	45
7 Esh Winning	29	13	4	12	60	45	15	43
8 Marske United	28	12	6	10	55	33	22	42
9 Guisborough	27	13	3	11	56	40	16	42

A Voice In The Crowd by Bob Scott

On the Pitch

Well things are certainly buzzing at Filtrona Park nowadays – match days can't come quickly enough for Shields fans and long may that continue.

Since the last 'Voice in the Crowd' issue, we have won six league games in succession, those being:

<u>Home</u>	Birtley	5-2
	Hebburn	3-0
	Prudhoe	4-0
	Darlington RA	3-2
	Stokesley	1-0
<u>Away</u>	Crook Town	6-1

"Buzzing at
Filtrona"

All excellent team performances, with great goals and individual displays. During the Darlington RA game the determination and will to win when 2-0 down at half time was a joy to watch. So well done everyone – the management, coaches and all of the playing squad.

I am trying very hard not to talk about promotion when we still have a lot of tough games to play – there are a lot of points to be won and lost. All of the clubs in the top six at the moment are in with a chance of finishing in the top three.

I think we have waited long enough though to get back into the First Division and hopefully this will be our year.

Looking back to when we were last in Division 1:

- 1997 Finishing in 9th place
- 1998 Finishing in 8th place
- 1999 Finishing in 14th place,

In 2000 we were relegated – finishing in bottom place with only 16 points. That season we won only 3 games and drew 7.

In the years to follow in Division 2, we finished in the following positions:

- 2001 11th place
- 2002 8th place
- 2003 8th place
- 2004 12th place
- 2005 13th place
- 2006 18th place

*"I think we
have waited
long enough
though to get
back into the
First Division
and hopefully
this will be our
year"*

Last season we obviously just missed out on promotion, finishing in 4th place.

So, as you can see, there was a downward spiral in our performance since relegation in 2000. This is with the exception of last year, although the football we were watching during that time was nowhere near as exciting as that which we are seeing now.

Hopefully, we can take the opportunity we have now and get this great club promoted and on the path to where we should – and hopefully will be!

A Voice In The Crowd by Bob Scott

Continued from page 2.

Club Shop

The club shop is certainly a busy place right now, and it is great to see new faces coming in to purchase items we have for sale. I am sure the proceeds are helping to contribute to the progress the club is making.

It is a pleasure to look around and see everyone in their replica shirts, hats and scarves. However, we could always do more, so if anyone would like to purchase any items for family or friends who do not currently attend games – a gift from the club shop may just be the inspiration they need to attend games in the future.



Zero Tolerance

Northern League chairman, Mike Amos, has expressed a desire to eradicate 'gratuitous' foul language from the game. He intends to 'experiment' with this idea using only Northern League Division 2 teams next season. In my opinion, it is extremely unfair that as a result of this 'experiment', Division 2 sides could have players suspended whilst those in Division 1 will be unaffected.

This poses the question - what rules will apply if teams from each division are drawn against each other in cup competitions? Will only those Second Division players be dismissed for these offences, or will both sides come under the ruling for that game – or will the rule be scrapped completely for that particular match. God knows!!!

Another point to consider is that by the time these cup ties get under way, Second Division clubs could already have players suspended for the match, while First Division sides will not have incurred this penalty due to the nature of this 'experiment'. Absolutely crazy!!!

After all you usually start a football season on the same footing as every other league – but this will not be the case for Division 2 sides next season.

He also says that the laws of the game state that it is an offence punishable by dismissal from the field or dugout to use offensive, insulting or abusive language.

Having recently spoken to the officials after one of our games they all told me that there are no written rules as to what these abusive words are, after all what I may find offensive could be totally different to someone else.

Some players may be hugely offended by his comment calling some of them 'foul mouthed jobs'. A description of a job in the dictionary is either a hooligan or an aggressive or surly youth.

A further comment was that it is driving supporters away from the game, but at all levels and very much so at Filtrona Park attendances are up.

While I am not condoning everything that is said during a game you have to be careful and fair as to how you deal with it.

I can't wait for it all to be clarified.

COME ON YOU MARINERS!!!!!!

South Shields FC.

A Historical Resume: By Bob Wray

and reprinted with the kind permission of the Shields Gazette.
Edited from the original article. (continued in next issue)

IT was in 1897 that a notice appeared in a Laygate shop window calling for a public meeting to be held in the Brunswick Hotel to discuss the formation of a team.

The notice lamented that South Shields was alone in the north east in "not having a team of dribblers".

South Shields Association Football Club played at the Athletic Ground on Mowbray Road, next to the Bents Cottages.

The "Seasiders" enjoyed moderate success for five years, until being disbanded in 1902, through financial problems.

Loud and many were the complaints that local supporters of

just below West Ham and champions Nottingham Forest.

At this period, there was talk of promotion to the First Division and the mouth-watering prospect of derbies with Newcastle and Sunderland.

Alas, it was a short-lived dream.

In 1922, the club was obliged to sell Warney Cresswell to Sunderland, in order to balance the books, for the then league record fee of £5,500.

More sell-offs led to an almost inevitable relegation to the third division in 1927, after manager Jack Tinn left to join Portsmouth.

Inevitably, without money to bail the club out of impending bankruptcy, the only alternative from closure was a move out of the town.

numerous improvements, not the least of which was a new grandstand.

A major capture in 1912 was the ex-England international Arthur Bridgett from Sunderland as a player-manager and captain.

The years prior to World War One proved some of the most successful in the club's history, with two North Eastern League Championships among the impressive haul of trophies.

The outbreak of war in 1914 put matters on hold and clubs fielded 'shadow' teams.

The objective of football league membership for the club had been a long-held dream and in 1919 the dream became reality with election to the Second Division.

In the 1921-22 season the club finished sixth - ahead of Ful-

The club enjoyed a meteoric rise in status

the game would rather travel to neighbouring Sunderland and Newcastle to watch league football, a familiar problem down the years.

In 1899, South Shields Adelaide Athletic Football Club was formed and played on a pitch in Hartington Terrace, as a member of the Shields and District League.

It enjoyed a meteoric rise to regional non-league prominence to membership of the North Eastern League in 1908.

Re-organised as a limited company in 1910, the club then changed its official title to that of South Shields Football Club.

Growth on and off the park was rapid, the ground being progressively developed, with

SECOND DIVISION							
1921 - 1922							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Nottingham Forest	42	22	12	8	51	30	56
2 Stoke	42	18	16	8	60	46	52
3 Barnsley	42	22	8	12	67	52	52
4 West Ham	42	20	8	14	52	39	48
5 Hull	42	19	10	13	51	41	48
6 South Shields	42	17	12	13	43	36	46
7 Fulham	42	18	9	15	57	38	46
8 Leeds	42	16	13	13	48	38	45
9 Leicester	42	14	17	11	39	34	45
10 Wednesday	42	15	14	13	47	50	44
11 Bury	42	15	10	17	54	55	40
12 Derby	42	15	9	18	60	64	36
13 Notts County	42	12	15	15	47	51	39
14 Crystal Palace	42	13	13	16	45	51	39
15 Clapton Orient	42	15	9	18	43	50	39
16 Rotherham County	42	14	11	17	32	43	39
17 Wolves	42	13	11	18	44	49	37
18 Port Vale	42	14	8	20	43	57	36
19 Blackpool	42	15	5	22	44	57	35
20 Coventry	42	12	10	20	51	60	34
21 Bristol City	42	12	9	21	37	58	33
22 Bradford PA	42	12	9	21	48	62	31

CLUB STANDING ... how South Shields finally finished in the 1921-22 season, after topping the table earlier in the season.

The Inside Track by Phil Reay

We approach possibly the most important two months in the life of South Shields as an Arngrove Northern League Club; with ten games to play we are sitting second in the league following a run of six consecutive league victories. Should this form continue until the end of the season then we will achieve promotion to division 1.

The two recent postponements have been frustrating but I feel we would be better served to play the games in decent conditions. The game against Stokesley was a classic reminder of how conditions can make the result of a game a lottery.

I think you will agree that our new signings have settled into the side very well, in particular the addition of Duncan O'Brien in the centre of the defence has strengthened our defence with 3 clean sheets in the 7 games he has started.

It is great to see the growth in the membership of the supporter's association and I was proud to receive my membership card last week, for I may hold the title Club Secretary but I first and foremost a South Shields supporter.

As the Association continues to grow our gates continue to average around the 175 mark the highest in the division and better than most clubs in Division 1, as a result there is an intimidating but not hostile atmosphere at Filtrona which certainly spurs the lads on.

The travelling support is also growing and even away games are like playing at home as the Mariner's fans outnumber the home support, more than one secretary has commented on the increase in takings when South Shields are in town.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the association for their support long may it continue and if you're reading this and are not a member get a form and join up as Del Boy would say "you know it makes sense".

I am looking forward to seeing the spread in the Gazette and the photo of the supporters in front of the stand, thanks to Phil Thornton for his efforts to publicise the association and the also the football club, since Phil took over responsibility for communications with the Gazette we have seen an increase in our coverage.

Also thanks to those of you who have taken time to wax lyrical about the club in the letters page, all publicity is good publicity.

News hot of the press we will now play Whickham away on Tuesday 11 March, as yet no date for Sunderland RCA and no info about the semi final of the Ernest Armstrong Memorial Cup.

As ever Onwards and Upwards

The Man Himself: Gary Steadman

Hello to all supporters,

To say I'm delighted to have won 9/10 games is an understatement.

I always believed this squad was good enough to push for promotion with one or two new players and hopefully I'm going to be proved right.

Every time somebody has come in to the team they have done well and kept their shirts (no favourites with me and Justin) Brock, Irvine, Oatesy, Johnas etc have all come in and done a great job and to be fair to the rest of the players none of them have complained which just goes to show what a great team spirit we have and this is going to be needed if were to go up.

Saturday Parky, Rodenby, Johnas and Tony Coe are all away so there are more opportunities for players to stake their claim. Back will come O'Donovan and Craig Russell to strengthen things up, personally I think Craig could just be the answer with all his knowledge and experience.

Hopefully we'll have Jonny Wightman from Chester le Street for next week in the squad as he has agreed to come to us. (final piece of the jigsaw).

One last thing the support all season has being 1st class but of late even better especially clapping the lads off as they know they wouldn't get this at any other club keep up the good work lads.

The Diary

Sat, 01/03	South Shields v Thornaby
Sat, 08/03	Brandon v South Shields
Tue, 11/03	Whickham v South Shields
Sat, 15/03	Marske v South Shields
Sat, 22/03	Guisborough v South Shields
Sat, 29/03	South Shields v Esh Winning
Sat, 05/04	Penrith v South Shields