



# Trust Newsletter

May 2007

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## AGM

Once again, it is time for the Trust's Annual General Meeting which will take place at The Coachman Hotel, Victoria Road, Darlington on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 8pm.

The Agenda and nomination forms are enclosed with this Newsletter and we look forward to receiving nominations to join the Board. There are six places available for election this time round and we would welcome as many new Board members as possible.

In the event of sufficient nominations, a voting form will be sent to you to enable a full postal ballot for the election so please keep an eye out for future correspondence.

*Please see Agenda and Nomination Forms attached with this Newsletter*

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*"Supporting Manchester United is easy, you generally win something every year. The club has the money to spend on the best players and youth development. We could not see ourselves travelling up and down the country to watch the likes of Darlington and Morecambe. The loyal supporters of those teams are the real heroes in football, not David Beckham"*

*Manchester United Independent  
Manchester United Supporters'  
Association*

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## TRUST FiTC Scheme Kicks off with £500 from the Coop

The Trust has won a £500 grant towards a coaching scheme it is helping to set up at a local primary school. United Cooperatives Ltd in North East and Yorkshire has approved the application for the scheme, to be run with Darlington's Football In The Community at Croft Primary School. Trust chairman Tony Taylor said: "We're very appreciative of the Co-op committee's kind offer which will certainly help us get things moving with the project at Croft."

Meanwhile, the trust has held a general knowledge quiz night at the school at the end of April which raised over £270 and anyone interested in sponsoring this scheme, or who would like to get a similar scheme going at another school, should contact the Trust or any Trust Board Member at the above address.

## Trust & Club in Talks

**The Trust had a positive first meeting with chief executive Jon Sotnik at the Football Club in February.**

Afterwards, Darlington FC thanked the Trust for playing what it called a "pivotal part" in expanding the club's community-based programmes.

## Trust & Club in Talks...

This follows a first meeting between the new board and the Trust at which it was discussed how the two can work together to benefit the club, fans and the local community.

We discussed the Trust's lottery scheme, which raises money through an independent company. In December, 2006, the Trust gave two cheques for £500 to the club for Football in the Community fund and the Youth Development Fund. The money was used to help expand the services to schools and communities beyond the boundaries of Darlington and surrounding areas. We have also recently received another tranche of £700. An application form for the lottery is enclosed with this Newsletter and, for just £1 a week, you really can make a difference to football in Darlington and the local area.

The issue of the "crisis fund" was raised and we reiterated our position that these funds lie untouched and continue - as supported by our members - to be "ring-fenced" in order to be used should the club hit any financial problems in the future.

Darlington Supporters Trust chairman, Tony Taylor, said: "The Trust has always looked to support Darlington FC in any way it can. The members will continue to raise money to be given to the club to help with its Football in the Community Fund and Youth Development. "We are keen to have a positive relationship with the club's new board and we hope, one day, we can even have a Trust representative on the board."

Darlington FC chief executive, Jon Sotnick, said: "The Trust has developed a good working relationship with our Football in the Community officer Kevin Stonehouse over the past six months. Following my first meeting with them as chief executive, I have been impressed with their passion, support and commitment to this club.

## Disabled Supporters Group

The Trust has set up a sub group to promote the interests of Disabled Supporters. The aims of the group are:

- To provide a focal point for disability issues both at home and away fixtures
- Encourage greater attendance by disabled supporters at Darlo games.

If you would like to help with this Sub Group, please contact us at our main address or call 0709 287 0189 (24 hours)

## Future Events

A number of events are being lined up by the Trust both at the Football Club and in the surrounding area. Please keep an eye out on our web site – [www.darlotrust.co.uk](http://www.darlotrust.co.uk) – for the latest news. If you have an email address, please send it to the membership secretary ([darlotrust@hotmail.com](mailto:darlotrust@hotmail.com)) and we will keep you notified of events by email.

*Darlington Supporters' Trust*

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*"Without the fans, the game is nothing. What would be the point? That passion, that commitment, that devotion. It cannot be bought and it cannot be cashed in. It needs to be rewarded, invested in and nurtured."*

*Sir Alex Ferguson*

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*Proud to be leading the way in the Supporters Trust movement.*