

BARNET FC

SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION



2006/2007 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope you enjoy the reports and articles in this issue, and trust that it provides you with plenty of information regarding forthcoming events, and what the BFCSA committee have in store for members for next season.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Keith Doe

Hello and welcome to the April newsletter. In this edition we will be detailing the exciting new BFCSA membership scheme for the 07-08 season, highlighting the more "user friendly" coach travel pricing as well as the regular reviews from the BFCYSA, the BFCSA football team and lots more.

It's been yet another rollercoaster season supporting the Bees. From the bleak days of October, came a run of form that saw us climb the table into play-off contention, and saw "The History Boys" reach the FA Cup 4th Round for the very first time in our history - A magnificent achievement, and testament to the strength of character of our manager and players. February saw our play-off aspirations drift away, and we now find ourselves in April, in a far more comfortable position than we did this time last year. Nevertheless, it's essential that we retain our focus over the final months of the season and ensure we get to that magical 50 points as quickly as possible. I personally, have every confidence in Paul Fairclough's ability to see us safe come May, and in addition adding the title of Herts Senior Cup winners 2006/07 to the list of club honours.

Attendances at Underhill have once again been disappointing and ultimately, whilst we remain at Underhill, these attendances will drive sustainable on-the-pitch improvement. The fact that as I write, the club find itself so close to safety with about 6 games to play is a real achievement as far as I am concerned. We are not in a position to compete financially with a large proportion of the clubs in this division, but for the second season running, we look to have done just that. Despite the improvements to Underhill, it's critical that supporters appreciate that the existing ground is never going to generate the financial income necessary to support a Football League side, and this needs to be incorporated into supporters' expectations.

Since the last edition of the newsletter a member of the Supporters Association was injured in a horrific train accident while on his way home from a Barnet game. Gareth Needham, known affectionately as "Donny Gaz", travelled from his home town of Doncaster to see every match. His dedication is second to none and since his accident the terraces have been missing a massive personality.

But the miraculous recovery that he is making has astounded the medical profession. Towards the end of February I had the privilege of visiting Gaz with 3 other Barnet supporters at his home and his reaction when we walked in was fantastic. He was laughing and joking about all sorts of things, but one thing shone out more than anything else – his love of all things Barnet FC was apparent, and out of the tragic accident Barnet has gained a number of new supporters. Gaz's family are overwhelmed by the support that Barnet fans have given them, they have printed off every story run on Barnetfc.com

as well as all of the kind comments on the message board. The sense of community and togetherness presented by the club and the supporters is very special and the reason why Barnet Football Club gets under your skin and becomes so much more than just a football club or a past-time.

Gaz returned to Underhill for the very first time for the match against Darlington. For his Mum and Dad, his twin brother and his very close friends from Doncaster and Barnet it proved to be a very emotional day. The BFCSA committee has worked closely with Gaz and his family with regards to fund-raising. After the match against Darlington we celebrated the victory with a very successful Race Night held in the Durham Suite. I am very pleased to confirm that we have raised £2011 to help the Needham family. This isn't the end of it though and there are more events planned for the rest of the season including a good old fashioned Friday Night Out in the Pavilion Sports Bar and Café on 6th April. The Good Friday live set attractions are The Fourheads, a 60's, 70's and 80's cover band. Tony "Reckless" Hammond is a prominent member of The Fourheads but please don't let that put you off! Another event being organised is a Golf Day. Details for this will be finalised soon and again I hope you are able to support this worthy event.



2006 saw the introduction of the Associate Membership, this membership scheme gave the opportunity for members to benefit from a number of club related offers. We have decided to revamp this membership for next season; details are enclosed within this newsletter. This season has seen the BFCSA committee implement many changes. We have listened to our members and the committee is ever-changing. We still need your input and I hope that next year the BFCSA continues to provide more and more for its members.

One last thing, please look out for details of this years end of season Player of the Year awards party. We hope that this year's event will provide something for everyone and I am looking forward to finalising details very soon.

Until next time enjoy the rest of the season and I hope that next season sees the team develop and us pushing for promotion. How fitting would it be to celebrate 100 years of football at Underhill with promotion and another fantastic FA Cup run.

Up the Bees!!!!

MEMBERSHIP 2007/2008 SEASON

The 2006/07 season saw the introduction of the Associate Membership scheme, a joint venture between the Football Club and the BFCSA. It's our belief that this offered our members excellent value for money and enabled the Association to raise a significant sum for the club's players' fund.

However, administratively the Associate membership proved very difficult to control, and as a result the committee have taken the decision to revert to a membership scheme operated solely by the Supporters Association for the 2007/08 season.

Nevertheless, there will be some significant alterations to the package we offer our members for the forthcoming season:

- BFCSA Membership Card
- New improved Coach Travel Package that will offer members significant savings on this season's prices
- "Ask the Committee/Club evenings" - Following recent feedback through the club messageboard, we will be staging "Ask the committee" sessions at various points throughout the season which members can attend - Non-members Entry £5
- Free access to the 2007/08 Player of the Year awards - Normal Entry £5
- Free entry into a Monthly Prize draw - Prizes to include Free travel to an Away game, Hospitality for 2, Club Shop merchandise
- 2 BFCSA newsletters will be issued each season providing details on other social events that the association are planning.

In addition, we hope to run other offers for our members, in-conjunction with the football club and other local businesses that will enable our members to recognise additional benefits through being a BFCSA member.

As a result of these changes, the membership structure will also be simplified to a 2-tier scheme for the 2007/08 season:

Concessions - £5
Adult - £10

Concessions apply to those who are 18 and under, or 60 and over, as of 1st August 2007.

Members can renew their membership for the 2007/08 season by sending the completed enclosed membership form, along with a cheque made payable to "Barnet Football Club Supporters Association" to 2 Westcombe Drive, Barnet EN5 2BE. This will enable us to process as many applications as possible prior to the AGM and make membership cards available on the night.

COACH TRAVEL 2007/2008 SEASON

The Supporters Association will be launching a new improved coach travel package for the 2007/08 season which will enable members to make some significant savings on this season's prices. Coach Travel will continue to be operated by Steve and Ann Percy, but the former match-by-match by prices will be replaced by 3 clear price bands:

Category	Concession	Adult
A	£5	£10
B	£10	£15
C	£15	£20

Once the fixtures for 2007/08 are released, we will announce which band each fixture falls into. This will provide members with better visibility of the true cost of travel to any given fixture and we hope that the reduced cost to some of the long distance games will encourage more members to travel.

In addition, it's worth pointing out that, traffic permitting, the SA coaches always stop in a "family orientated" location en-route to the game, which can make for an excellent family day out. Our hope is that with more competitive travel prices and better visibility of the service we provide, more families will be encouraged to travel.

These changes have been recommended following a study carried out into Coach Travel at other clubs. Wycombe Wanderers, MK Dons, Stevenage Borough, Crawley Town, Peterborough and Northampton all assisted in providing information on their coach travel operation, and whilst our prices were reasonably competitive, the suggested changes, along with what we already have in place, really do make us one of the better organisations at offering travel to away games for our supporters.

2006/07 Coaches | Remaining Fixtures

Day	Date	Coach Leaves	Kick Off	Opposition	Standard	Conc
Mon	09/04/2007	09:00	15:00	Rochdale	£27	£18
Tues	17/04/2007	17:30	19:45	Hemel Hempstead (HSC)	£10	£5
Sat	21/04/2007	09:00	15:00	Grimsby Town	£27	£18
Sat	28/04/2007	11:00	15:00	Mansfield Town	£17	£11

How To Book

Phone 01707 647365 and leave your details on the Answer Machine. If you are not a member already, you will be able to join on the day. Please note, if the details on the answer machine differ to those shown on this page then please go by the answer machine details. Alternatively, on match days book with the BFCSA at 2 Westcombe Drive, Barnet. If there are any remaining places then they will be sold on the day.

Meeting Arrangements

The coach will leave outside the Queens Arms (next to Barnet Odeon). During opening hours please meet inside the pub where you will be able to pay and enjoy a quick pint. Normally the Queens Arms operates an over 21's policy - however, the management have allocated a special area making all BFCSA members welcome prior to departure.

There are presently no arrangements to meet anywhere (other than on the coach) prior to opening hours. Please note, the times shown above are when the coach is due to leave. Please aim to arrive at least twenty minutes before this.

FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS FEDERATION NEWS

Henry Strevens

The BFCSA is a member of the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), which represents football supporters up and down the country. Committee members Alex Jones, Mark Ashfield and Henry Strevens continue to represent Barnet supporters at this wider level.

The FSF's Southern Division met at Aldershot Town FC on Sunday 25 February 2007, where some 17 supporters' organisations were represented, including BFCSA. Among the topics discussed were:

- The FSF campaign for fairer ticket pricing called "Away fans for £15.00" The new FA premier League T.V. deal money is equivalent to an admission price of £30.00 for every supporter at every FA Premier League game over the next three years. For further information, please visit the FSF website at: <http://www.fsf.org.uk/petitions/away-tickets/>
- Details of the Cardiff City fans' protest over the prevention of them being allowed to support their team at Molineux.
- The recent points deduction penalty imposed on AFC Wimbledon for fielding an ineligible player highlights the need for a national data-base for player registration.
- Brighton are fielding four supporters' candidates at the Lewes District Council elections on 3rd May 2007 following the rescinding of their planning permission at Falmer on a technicality.
- Representatives from Farnborough and Crawley discussed the current problems that they have at their clubs.
- FSF has been involved in the Safe Standing campaign in football grounds, which focuses on the need for the choice to stand or sit. An Early Day Motion at the House of Commons has raised nearly 150 signatories. However, when the FSF has approached to Football Licensing Authority, they will not meet if safe standing is on the agenda!
- British Transport Police are supporting the return of "Football Specials" on the rail network.

- The Burns Report was discussed and the recommendation for three supporters' representatives on the F.A. Council and subsequent lobbying for this.

- The effect of the new smoking legislation on all levels of the game - some grounds have introduced ground pass out tickets similar to cricket.

Your committee representatives are keen to hear of any issues that you may wish to give a wider airing. Federation policy comes from its members. The "Fans' Parliament" is at Crewe Alexandra in June and potential motions are already under discussion.

SUPPORTERS TEAM

John Hunt

Inter Milan v Barnet. What a mouth watering fixture that would be. It is a real possibility for FCBFCSA after an invite was received from Muraidentro, the Inter Milan Supporters club. Maybe we can combine this with a tour taking in Ivrea as well?

Barnet 1 Rochdale 2 | November 18 2006

A step up in class of opponents as FCBFCSA played their first Internet Football league match against Rochdale, without the talents of talisman Tony Fenton. The match, that saw the debut as referee of first team player Chris Emery, was fiercely contested.

Barnet went ahead in the first half courtesy of Craig Clayton, battling through a seemingly lost cause. Shortly afterwards, Simon Sav Alavi went off concussed.

After a melee in the second half that tested the mettle of the rookie referee, the team rallied, and a late penalty miss by Silvio Gradoni was the difference between victory and a draw against an experienced team. Barnet chased the game playing a formation of 3-5-2 at the end.

Team ; Barney, Clark, Martin, Minton, Flitney, Sav Alavi, Currell, Gradoni, Dodimead, Chillingworth, Clayton. Subs, Kentish, ~Frodo~, Blackerby, Goldman.

Mom – Oliver Minton

Barnet 2 Fulham 4 | January 27 2007

Prior to the Plymouth cup game, Barnet took on a Fulham side near the top of the internet football league. Andy Cosier took charge of the side, but refereed the game, when our appointed referee failed to show.

David Wilson from Fulham reported that it was a very exciting match to watch, and that the forward line of Barnet caused the defensive Fulham side problems all match. Fulsome in his praise, he stressed how well they complimented each other, and how the game was a lot closer than the scoreline suggested.

A brace from Tony Fenton saw Barnet level at 2-2 until the 85th minute. Again the more experienced side went ahead, and the fourth goal came when Ryan Barney was playing as an auxiliary outfield player.

Team ; Barney, Clark, Martin, Minton, Sav Alavi, ~Zacci~ Currell, Gradoni, Dodimead, Clayton, Fenton. Subs Kentish ; not used Kirkby, Goldman, Blackerby, Carp.

Mom – Oliver Minton (again)

West Ham 2 Barnet 5 - March 3rd 2007

Barnet raced to a 4 – 0 lead against highly rated West Ham. Barney, playing at left wing - after eight years as a goalkeeper – scored a hat-trick, and Fenton, and Clark one each to give the Bees their first league victory. Clark playing in borrowed boots a size too small, scored his goal direct from a corner and linked up well with Barney on the left all game.

Barnet held off a 2nd half fight back from West Ham, playing two newcomers in the second half who thought we were West Ham ! The team dug in deep, but conceded two disputed goals in the second half.

Fenton had the ball handled outside the area late on tipped over the bar by their centre back from the resultant quick free kick. Fenton offered the penalty to Barney to allow him to complete his hat trick in injury time. Special mentions to fine performances from Robin Goldman, 36 and Joel Ramos, 15.

Team; Kirkby, Carp, Clark, Minton, Currell, Ramos, Clayton, Gradoni, Barney, Fenton, Goldman. Sub Salinger

Mom - Tony Fenton



A CUP OF PLENTY

Craig Clayton

Our cup story this season began in August with a seemingly impossible fixture away to Cardiff City in the first round of the Carling Cup. 104 Barnet fans made the long midweek trip to South Wales to witness what turned out to be the first beating of a team in a higher division. With a number of changes to both the Barnet and Cardiff starting XIs, two Tresor Kandol goals with no reply completed one of several Carling Cup shocks of the round. Many were quick to praise Kandol's first due to his quick thinking and accuracy, having only very recently been back training with the squad after his prison sentence in the close season.

Our biggest following away from home in any cup this season was at Elland Road when 627 Barnet fans saw us crash out in the following round against Leeds. With a number of changes made to the starting line up again in this

competition, we did well not to disgrace ourselves against a club that not so long ago progressed as far as the Semi Finals of the Champions League. A very bright second half saw Magno Vieira score our only goal of the game.

The main point of controversy in this game was when Neil Sullivan in the Leeds goal, fouled Vieira outside the view of the referee or either of his assistants. Many who saw the incident deemed it worthy of a red card, and with no substitute goal keeper on the home side's bench, it may have been an interesting finish.

Our spell in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy was to last a mere 14 days. Three more Kandol goals in two games did not escape the attention of most fans, nor did his performances in cup games go un-noticed by bigger clubs.

Next up was the FA Cup and the beginning of what this season will probably be best remembered for. It started with a 3-1 win away at Gainsborough Trinity, Sinclair scoring first and Kandol once again obliging with two further goals late on to add to his tally. This would be his last cup game in a Barnet shirt, and with a 2nd round home fixture against Northampton fast approaching, who was going to get the goals to take us through? On December 2nd Barnet went in at half time one nil down, courtesy of former fans' favourite Scott McGleish popping up and scoring, kindly performing his acrobatics that we all used to love. A superb second half performance from the whole Barnet team was capped by goals from Birchall, Sinclair, Hendon and Vieira. Whether you call it irony or coincidence, it is interesting that all the ex-Cobblers players in the Barnet side scored, and all the ex-Bees players in the Northampton side scored!

The 3rd round FA Cup game against Colchester was rescheduled from the Saturday to the Tuesday evening following some foul weather resulting in an unplayable pitch. Another spirited comeback by Barnet and one of the goals of the season by Jason Puncheon put us into the 4th round for the first time in our history. Facing either Plymouth or Peterborough at home in the next round, fans discussed in great length who they wished to get and why.

The next time Barnet would feature in the cup was in the Herts Senior Cup. Victories over Welwyn Garden City and Hertford Town put us through into the semi final against up and coming Bishop's Stortford which the Bees won 2-0. The final will take place on 17th of April against Hemel Hempstead Town.

There was still the small business of the FA Cup, Plymouth having overcome The Posh. Despite another strong Barnet performance, the outcome was a disappointing exit from the competition. No one likes losing, but we can be proud of the way our team played. Plymouth are in the Championship for a reason, and we were never expected to beat them for a good reason. Furthermore, only a penalty and a goal from one of England's top prospects could split the sides. Be proud!

So where does that leave us now? We've had an exciting trip away at Leeds and progressed further than ever before in the FA Cup. If that wasn't enough, we've now got a cup final on the horizon! I think even the pessimists amongst us will agree, it's not been that bad this year, has it?!

The Beehive Fund Draw was launched in February 2004. It is open to members of the Barnet Football Club Supporters' Association who are over the age of eighteen years.

For just £4 per month you will be entered in this prize draw and in doing so raise much needed funds for long term projects to benefit supporters and Barnet Football Club.

Prizes are geared for all age ranges and interests.

If you wish to join, please complete an application form and forward to Henry Strevens at 2 Westcombe Drive, Barnet, Hertfordshire EN5 2BE

RECENT WINNERS

January Prize Winners:

First Prize: Michael Chern

Second Prize: Ann Percy

Third Prize: Steve Percy

When we rejoined the Football League in 2005, many Barnet supporters were impressed by the shiny new stadiums that were home to our fellow clubs. Yet impressive though they undoubtedly were, something wasn't right. Many of us had been brought up on the terraces of Underhill and wanted to watch our football as we always had, standing up. In the rush to the all-seater super stadia, we had been forgotten.

The BFCSA is affiliated with the Football Supporters Federation; among its campaigns is a concerted effort to restore supporter choice and bring safe standing areas into the English game. The FSF work with another organisation, Stand Up Sit Down, a single issue pro-choice organisation. The reality of modern day Premiership football is that thousands continue to flout ground regulations and stand in all-seater grounds, something that can bring conflict both with fellow supporters who wish to sit, and clubs who struggle to keep everyone happy.

In Germany, a more sensible approach has been adopted and many of the top grounds, including those used during the World Cup, provide a mix of standing and seating accommodation. European games must still be played in all-seated facilities, but a number of innovative ways have been found to work around this. At Hamburg, for example, the seats fold away into the terrace, giving standing room for domestic games.

There seems little reason why a similar approach could not work in England and the pro-choice movement is gaining momentum. 132 MP's have signed up to an Early Day Motion backing a re-examination of the issue and media interest is growing. In recent weeks, The Observer, The Telegraph and The Independent have all carried lengthy pieces on standing.

Our own future may lie away from Underhill. As an Association, we recognise the benefits that a smarter, more modern stadium can bring, but by the same token we appreciate that moves away from traditional homes alienate a significant minority.

Should BFC move to a new stadium, no doubt there will be an opportunity for supporters to debate the sort of environment they would like to watch the Bees in, and whilst recognising the practicalities and limitations, it is something the BFCSA look forward to playing an active role in when such a time comes.

BFCYSA REPORT

Ben Kentish

Things have been a bit quiet on the BFCYSA front recently, but there is a lot in the pipeline and we've already started planning for next season. As I'm sure everyone is aware, next season will be 100 years of football at Underhill and we're looking to link our plans for the year in with this.

The main 'project' of the BFCYSA this season was to really kick-start the organisation of the Young Supporters Team. The aim for the season was to organise a minimum of four games for the team and, at the time of writing, four have already been played – two wins and two defeats. This will become five games by the time you read this, as the team travelled to Stevenage on March 10th. Games are also planned against Stevenage (yet again!) and Wycombe before the end of the season, and thanks must go to Iain Dalziel and Craig Clayton for managing the team and also to everyone else who has helped out.

BFCYSA TEAM REPORT

Iain Dalziel

The BFCYSA football team was set up last season, though the 2006/07 season has seen things really come to fruition. Last season the team took on Stevenage and Peterborough, both away and suffered defeats. However, these were with hastily arranged teams and against strong opponents. The start of this season saw a much more all round focused effort, with an open trials taking place in mid-September, in preparation for the team's first game of the campaign, at home to MK Dons.

The MK Dons game was the current side's first game together as a team. Despite the 6-4 reverse, the performance was most encouraging and the players gelled quickly and well. A Joel Ramos hat trick and a goal from Kieren Trent were not enough on the day though, as the young Bees were made to rue their poor finishing against an MK side who were very good on the break.

Nevertheless, there were many positives to take from the game and confidence was high among the players for the following game, at home to our Hertfordshire counterparts, Stevenage. The game was another high scoring one, played at a fast tempo and involving its fair share of drama. Having been 2-0 and 3-1 up the BFCYSA boys were understandably a little disappointed to draw 3-3. Joel bagged another two and Alex Slipaczek grabbed his first goal for the side, but there was more action to come after the 90, when Stevenage challenged us to a shoot out. In the penalties, the

Bees kept their nerve and won 4-3, with Mitchell Snell pulling off real heroics between the sticks. The deciding penalty was coolly tucked away by Pat Nally.

After the dramatic win against Stevenage however, came the opposite, when the trip to Wycombe proved to be a rather un-enjoyable experience. The opposition being a 'youth' supporters' team was questionable and the spirit the game was played in was not the best. Nonetheless, Wycombe were a very good side and the Bees were on the wrong end of a 7-1 scoreline, despite opening the scoring, once again through the prolific Joel Ramos. Despite being without one or two players from previous games and against older opposition, it certainly taught the players a lesson and gave them plenty of experience which in the long run they will only benefit from.



Thankfully, the reaction in the following game proved to be more than positive. After another training session in early January, next up was the trip to MK. The players wanted revenge for having felt hard done by losing last time...and they got it in style. An astounding 8-1 win was recorded, clearly the finest moment in the side's short existence. Joel Ramos notched up four, taking his season tally to a superb ten goals in four games. Alex Slipazcek scored his second of the season, Edd Evans-Sale grabbed a debut goal and Michael Cave and the skipper Ben Kentish both also opened their accounts for the BFCYSA. It was an immense display from the side. The sixth goal, Joel's fourth, was the pick of the bunch. A superb team move, passing on the floor from one box to the other at a superb pace, combined with a great final finish. Goal of the season so far.

There are possible for another match with Wycombe this season. All the same, so far, the boys should be very proud of themselves. Everyone who has been involved in the team this season has given 100% commitment and we have a great team spirit as well as a terrific work ethic. I'm certainly proud to be associated with the side and have very much enjoyed managing them. Below is a list of all those who have played for the side this season...

Mitchell Snell, Shaun O'Sullivan, Max Slipaczek, Daniel Bass, Liam Kenna, Chris Varnavas, Matt Riley, Jake Manzi, Simon Lesley, Daniel Hooker, Jack Nally, Pat Nally, Alex Slipaczek, Edd Evans-Sale, Ben Kentish, Michael Cave, Kieren Trent, Olly Deed, Joel Ramos, Iain Dalziel

Craig Clayton also deserves thanks for helping out as "first team coach" on a number of occasions. The team is certainly improving all the time. Onwards and upwards!

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Tom Bentley

On behalf of the rest of the BFCSA committee, can I thank all of you who attended the quiz nights on December 16th and March 3rd, as well as the Race Night on the 31st. Great nights were had by all. Our upcoming events are:

Player of the Year Awards Night - Sunday 6th May 2007

This will take place in the Durham Suite, and with the intention of trying to please as many supporters as possible, it will be an upstairs/downstairs affair. Let me explain; upstairs will be a sit-down dinner (menu and cost to be confirmed); downstairs will be a disco. The presentation ceremony will be open to everyone attending, whether up or down. More details to follow in the match day programme and on the web.

VILLAGE ON TOUR

John Adkins

I recently returned to Ivrea to see my Italian friends and witness the Carnevale di Ivrea, which is held annually and is a spectacle worth experiencing.

It is the oldest carnival in the world, and the only one which has a real plot, telling a story in which the protagonists are not masked characters but ideal figures, the symbols of anarchic values and actors of ancient events. Even if the original core of the legend has been gradually adapted over the years to the requirements of the various periods, there remain two main trends of events which make up the plot. The first goes back to the Middle Ages, when Federico Barbarossa installed the tyrant Raineri di Biandrate as lord of the town. For a long time the violence exasperated the people, who in 1194 rose up and destroyed the tyrant's castle, the symbol of oppression. The same fate was reserved for another despot in 1296, the Marquis Guglielmo of Monferrato.

In popular tradition, Raineri and Guglielmo have become a single tyrant, who in keeping with the custom of the time, claimed the right to practice 'jus primae noctis', in other words, to sleep with any bride on her wedding night. That is, until Violetta, the beautiful daughter of a miller, rebelled against the lord's will, cut off his head with a dagger and showed it to the people gathered beneath the castle walls. There followed a popular rebellion, which led to the destruction of the castle and which is symbolised to be the 'Battle of the Oranges', played out between the orange throwers on foot (representing the rebels) and those on carts (representing the tyrant's

Guards) In order to fully understand the current structure of the festival, we must complete the plot with a glimpse of more recent history. Until 1600, the various districts of the town celebrated carnival separately, holding parties that were animated by a great rivalry and which often ended in violent disputes. It was only in 1808 that the Napoleonic government, which had jurisdiction in Ivrea at the time, ordered the reunification of carnival celebrations and entrusted the control to a group of citizens in Ivrea.



To stimulate a consensual disposition of the town towards the government, the group was made to wear the uniform of the Napoleonic army. This is how the figure of the general came about, surrounded by the Aide-de-camp and staff officers. Only in 1858, on the wave of renewed desire for freedom stemming from the Risorgimento movement, the general was accompanied by the figure of the miller's daughter (Mugnaia), the heroine of the historic festival. The beauty Mugnaia, the General and his staff officers, the procession with the quarters flags, represented by the priors, the Pipes and Drums, the colourful Orange Battle, the stakes are the real protagonists and the main events of the historical festival. All these elements are rooted in the dark medieval history: some present characters, also symbols of rebellion for the freedom conquest are linked with them, and are symbols of liberty from every form of tyranny. Finally, the obligation to wear the 'Berretto Frigio' (red hat) dates back to the 19th century. It is a symbol of liberty and brotherhood inherited from the French Revolutionaries, and must be worn to avoid becoming a target for the orange throwers!

I also managed to speak with the sports director of U.S. Ivrea regarding the possibility of their visiting Underhill to play a friendly against Barnet. He seemed very optimistic about it being arranged. Furthermore, when my Italian friends heard about what had happened to Donny Gaz, they said that they would like to give him something. They managed to get a U.S. Ivrea first team shirt from last season which was duly signed by the squad, and will be presented to Gaz at a later date. This was a fantastic gesture by them.

REMAINING VOUCHER OFFERS

There are still a number of offers valid through the Associate Membership. Voucher M will get you a free pint or cup of coffee in the Pavilion Sports Bar and Café every weekday in April. Placing Voucher O into any of the three black boxes outside the home turnstiles will enter you into the draw to present the end of season awards to the players. The draw will take place on April 14th at half time against Bristol Rovers. Finally, Voucher P entitles you to free entry into the End Of Season awards in the Durham Suite on Sunday 6th May. Otherwise, entry will be £5, so remember to bring your booklets with you on the night.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

Here are the faces of the BFCSA Committee currently representing you, the supporters. If you have any issues you would like to be raised for discussion, you can speak to any of the committee on a matchday or there are a number of other ways of communicating with us. You can leave a note in the Suggestion Boxes by the home turnstiles or drop an e-mail to info@bfcsa.co.uk

Associate Membership & Club Liaison	Social Committee	Football Federation Committee	Newsletter & Media Committee	Programme Supply & Archive
Keith Doe 	Tom Bentley 	Mark Ashfield 	Michael Hanley 	Bill Cresswell 
Pete Williamson 	Eddie Thompson 	Alex Jones 	Craig Clayton 	
Jeff Searle 	Steven Mann 	Henry Strevens 	James Harrison 	
	Tony Fenton 	Chris Nash 	John Snow 	
	Oliver Deed 		John Adkins 	
			Ben Kentish 	



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