

BARNET FC

SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION



2007/2008 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to the first BFCSA newsletter of the season.

Last year saw a number of big changes within the Association, the increase in our profile around the club is testament to the hard work and dedication of the committee and everyone associated with us. In my opinion the BFCSA has come on leaps and bounds, the closer working relationship between the Football Club and the Association has been one of the many highlights from a season where I believe both parties have learnt a lot.

We started last season by launching the New Associate Membership, this provided members of the association a number of promotions throughout the season, the idea being the scheme was to give supporters something back on a regular basis. The special offers and prize draws were well received and not only enhanced the work that the Association was doing but also promoted different areas of the Football Club. Unfortunately the scheme was unexpectedly difficult to administer and therefore we have had to completely revamp this year's membership.

We held a number of events throughout the year of which all of them were really well attended. From the quizzes and race night to the Player of the Year Dinner and Disco, all events were produced in a very professional manner and I am confident that this year's events will be even better.

My personal highlight of the season was reaching the fourth round of the FA cup for the first time, I'm not sure if describing it as a dream come true is a little bit strong but it certainly isn't far off the mark.

It was also a momentous year for supporters off the pitch; the real Barnet community spirit was there for everyone to see as one of our very own fought for his life in hospital. The stories and tales of Donny Gaz's battle back to Underhill is well versed and so it should be, but one of the main things that drove him on was his love for this football club and the love and affection he received from hundreds of Barnet fans during his darkest hours. Gaz's stories symbolise this club for me, against all odds fighting through and achieving the impossible. Defying what so called experts predict and come out stronger at the other end.

Let's face it, every year we remain a Football League club the more and more we are over achieving, what Paul Fairclough has achieved on such an understandably tight budget is almost miraculous. Year after year bigger clubs are falling out of the league and we are still standing tall. I know Paul received a lot of criticism last year and in my opinion it is completely unjust.

Each year we seem to be facing bigger clubs with bigger levels of support and with much higher playing budgets. Many people complain that top flight football is all about money, but unfortunately it's not restricted to the top two leagues. Barnet are by far one of the smallest clubs in league football, challenging and somehow beating teams like Bradford that have over 8,000 season ticket holders. Its like two boxers from different weight divisions fighting each other, it will only take a handful of hits to keep the small guy

down for good.

So how do we literally punch above our weight? Close financial control by The Chairman and the Board and personal development of players by Paul Fairclough and his coaching team are the only two contributing factors that I can see that aid our survival. The big question for me is how long can we keep this going? And I honestly fear that unless we see a massive change to the clubs resources that we have available to us then our future is very limited to say the least.

Having a suitable and financially sustainable venue to play our home games in still seems many years away. The latest plans for developing parts of the ground means that our short term future would be more secure and comfortable but what concerns me is where the club will be in 3 years. By this I don't mean geographically but in the league status. How long can we expect our limited playing budget to produce the Kings, Baileys and Kandols that move on and create well need revenue for the club? Let's not forget that the money for these players can't feasibly all go back in to the player budget and has to be used to pay for the basic infrastructure of the club.

I do not believe that Barnet can continue to maintain its league status unless a more permanent future is created and as supporters we have to decide what the most important thing is for us. Moving away from Underhill and possibly increasing the likelihood of maintaining our league status or remain at Underhill and if we don't continue to over achieve settle for a long term future of non-league football. And what about generations to come, the decisions that are being made now will directly affect our families and children.

I applaud Tony and his Chairmanship of this football club, sticking by us when many would or could have walked away, but I believe that now is the time for this club to throw caution to the wind. What have we got to lose? The KBA started over 10 years ago, campaigning to Keep Barnet Alive and with Tony's commitment it has achieved this but in those ten years or so many clubs have expanded, taken the plunge and succeeded. Do you remember playing Wigan and Fulham in league matches? It wasn't really that long ago.

Regardless of whether or not the planning permission for the redevelopment work is passed by Barnet Council, we must start to secure our longer term future. There still appear to be no possible sites in the Borough for a new ground, so are we really left with any other option then to formally announce that we will be looking outside of Barnet for a new location to develop a suitable stadium for our home matches?

I understand that many Barnet fans are keen to remain at Underhill but at the end of the day is it really about what we want or is it about the bigger issue and the future of this Football Club? This season is massive in all aspects - a new team took the field against Morecambe on the first weekend of the season. I'm sure that the experience of Ian Hendon in the coaching team will be a massive asset to Paul.

Although the start of the season has produced a mixture of quality in our performances, we have been blighted by a number of refereeing errors. I do

hope that this "bad luck" leaves us soon, as I've been pleasantly surprised by the quality of football we are currently playing.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and as always your feedback is gratefully received. Enjoy the run-up to Christmas and look out for the great events and evening that we are putting together over the course of the season.

Up the Bees!

Keith

LEE'S 300 UP



Congratulations to Lee Harrison who made his 300th start for Barnet FC at the Rochdale game on Saturday 15th September.

The Barnet FC Supporters Association presented Lee with a trophy before the game. Pictured above is BFCSA chairman, Keith Doe, presenting the trophy to Lee.

COACH TRAVEL 2007/2008 SEASON

This season the Supporters Association has launched a new improved coach travel package which will make matchday travel simpler for members. 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

2007/08 Day	Coaches Date	Coach Leaves	Kick Off	Opposition	Category
Saturday	20/10/2007	09:00	15:00	Wrexham	B
Saturday	03/11/2007	09:00	15:00	Bury	C
Saturday	17/11/2007	10:00	15:00	Shrewsbury	B
Tuesday	04/12/2007	14:00	19:45	Chester	B
Saturday	15/12/2007	10:00	15:00	Lincoln City	B
Saturday	22/12/2007	09:00	15:00	Rochdale	C
Tuesday	01/01/2008	12:00	15:00	Wycombe	A
Saturday	12/01/2008	12:30	15:00	Milton Keynes Dons	A
Saturday	26/01/2008	09:00	15:00	Bradford	C
Tuesday	29/01/2008	14:00	19:45	Hereford	B
Saturday	09/02/2008	08:30	15:00	Darlington	C
Saturday	16/02/2008	11:30	15:00	Peterborough	A
Saturday	08/03/2008	10:30	15:00	Notts County	B
Tuesday	11/03/2008	14:00	19:45	Grimsby	C
Monday	24/03/2008	09:30	15:00	Macclesfield	C
Saturday	05/04/2008	10:00	15:00	Mansfield	B
Saturday	19/04/2008	09:00	15:00	Accrington Stanley	C
Saturday	03/05/2008	09:30	15:00	Rotherham	C

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.

The annual conference of The Football Supporters' federation took place on 8-10 June 2007 at the Alexandra Stadium, Crewe Alexandra Football Club. B.F.C.S.A. was represented over the weekend by Mark Ashfield and Henry Strevens.

Conference was opened by Dario Grady. His address focused on the difficulty smaller clubs face in attracting local youngsters against the competition from Premier League clubs, with the financial muscle they enjoy.

During the conference there were a whole range of supporters issues discussed relevant across the whole football pyramid.

The trouble at the Champions League final in Athens was covered in a debate relating to UEFA'S common practice of awarding matches to stadiums which are not fit for purpose. UEFA has subsequently agreed to set up a working group to review the suitability of future venues.

There was a presentation by the Fixtures Working Party FIFA/UEFA and the English F.A. insert their fixture requirements four years in advance. Interestingly in the computer fixture programming process for the Premier and Football League T.V. scheduling does not influence fixture compilation (that is dealt with after the fixtures have been released). Another variable which may surprise many is not considered at the compilation stage is mid-week travel distances. Fixture distance is only analysed at the review stage to avoid say four long away trips in quick succession.

What is primarily considered in fixture compilation are home/away sequences, rival club pairings (alternating home/away fixtures for clubs such as Arsenal and Tottenham). Police and Club requests are considered/scrutinised to see whether they are reasonable or not.

There was a workshop on Policing and Stewarding which was most useful, hosted by Tony Conniford of the UK Football Policing Unit and John Rutherford of The Football Safety Officer's Association. Topics discussed included the Barnet away match at Mansfield last season where post-match there was an incident involving the hired-in home section stewards also debated were the mandatory (10 year) football banning orders as there is no shorter options for magistrates to use (say 6-12 months) for minor offences, such as seeking to enter a football ground whilst under the influence of alcohol (which is based solely on the opinion of the arresting officer).

Conference also saw the launch of a major study by The Football Supporter's Federation titled "The case for safe standing at major football stadia in England and Wales-a 21st century solution", which is well worth a read for those interested.

Remember B.F.C.S.A. is an affiliated member of The Football Supporters' Federation. Contact either Mark Ashfield, Alex Jones or Henry Strevens in person or at info@bfcsa.co.uk if you have an issue to raise.

It has been a busy time on the supporters' team front. Since the last Newsletter, Barnet have played four regular season matches, and participated in two tournaments. Many new faces have been introduced to the squad, and new contacts made.

At the player of the year awards, a last minute addition was made to the prizes awarded. FCBFCSA captain Gerry Currell was named player of the season. Joel Ramos was named young player of the year.

QPR 2 Barnet 1 (31st March 2007)

Against an experienced QPR team, a scratch Barnet side performed admirably, and were unlucky not to come away from this game with a draw. With the squad down to the bare bones, Barnet were rocked when Andy Francis was injured 5 minutes into the game. Tom Salinger was thrown into the fray to partner Robin Goldman up front. The famous Tommy Tank partnership. Barnet's defence came under heavy aerial pressure from QPR, in strong winds. Gerry Currell, and Ollie Minton at the heart of the defence supported led Barnet's rearguard action. After going a goal down it was Salinger, with his only touch of the game who carved out an opening for Ramos, who equalised for the Bees. Heartbreakingly, QPR snatched victory with almost the last touch of the game.

Kirby, Francis (Salinger (Cosier)), Manzi (debut), Minton (man of the match), Sav Alavi, Swain(debut), Currell, Gradoni, Dodimead, Goldman, Ramos

Barnet 3 Millwall 4 (April 7th 2007)

Next up for FCBFCSA was a Bank Holiday derby with Millwall. To be brutally honest a fine footballing Millwall side physically intimidated Barnet. Millwall had been banned from the IFA so this game was a friendly. It was a tough match refereed well by Adam Robinson, Barnet groundsman, and cousin of Millwall captain Paul Robinson. Barnet players Tony Fenton, and Ross Clark left the pitch injured. Fenton with a broken tooth, and Clark with a torn scrotum. Barnet went into the break only a goal down, and fancied their chances of turning the game round. However indecision at the back meant they were three down on fifty minutes. Barney pulled one back for the Bees, but Millwall extended their lead. Late goals by Barney (5 in two starts) and Ramos put the Bees within touching distance of an equaliser, but it was a game we didn't deserve to win. James Taylor was commanding at centre back in his debut when he came on as sub.

Chillingworth, Clark, Minton, Sav Alavi, Dodimead, Ramos, Gradoni, Currell , Barney, Fenton, Clayton. Subs Salinger, Kentish, Goldman, and debutants Richards, and Taylor (man of the match).

Cherrywood Road tournament (6th May 2007)

It was with some confidence that Barnet approached the annual Cherrywood Road tournament. The team decided to tackle the event professionally, and in some style. The team were transported to and from Farnborough in the Barnet first team coach, arranged with the help of Cantabrica, and Rob Robertson. The management team of Hunt and Cosier, were suited and booted, and wearing matching ties. The tournament was a round robin affair with each game lasting 20 minutes.

12pm Barnet 1 (Fenton pen) Stevenage 1

Barnet got off to their best start in this tournament against Hertfordshire rivals Boro', on a pitch which could well have hosted beach volleyball.

1pm Barnet 0 Woking 1

However disaster was to follow an hour later, with a lack lustre performance from the Bees. A defensive error cost the bees the match. The performance only picked up when the team reverted to a 3-5-2 formation when they were chasing the game.

2pm Barnet 2 (Clark,Richards) Aldershot 0

Barnet kept the formation for the next game of the tournament against favourites Aldershot, and carved out numerous openings. Clark, scored from a fierce free kick, and Richards grabbed his first Barnet goal. This game marked the only time this season an FCBFCSA player was booked. It was very harsh on Ben Kentish.



3pm Barnet 2 (Fenton, Richards) Welling United 2

In the game of the tournament Fenton opened the scoring by rounding the keeper and slotting home. An own goal by Gerry Currell equalised for Welling. Richards, scored his second of the tournament with a blistering drive. Barney, almost added a third soon afterwards. Minton kept Barnet in the game with a clearance off the line. Sadly Barnet were to surrender the lead to a last minute equaliser.

4.30pm Barnet 1 (Richards) Farnborough 0

Believing the competition to be over Barnet decided to give their squad members a run out. Anticipating needing a large victory to stand a chance in the competition a strong side lined up. However, when the goals didn't materialise Barnet flung on their Tommy Tank pairing in desperation. It came up trumps with a superbly floated free kick headed in by Richards, his third in successive games.

Barnet were amazed to learn on their return to Underhill that they finished joint second and would have won if it were not for the late Welling equaliser.

Welling United won the tournament.

The squad in no particular order:

Kirby, Flitney, Currell, Taylor, Carpenter, Chillingworth, Gradoni, Clark, Kentish, Fenton, Barney, Richards, Sav Alavi, Ramos, Clayton, Minton, Goldman, Salinger

Players of the tournament Taylor and Richards.

Morecambe 5 Barnet 2 (10th August 2007)

It was a strong looking Barnet line up, that were sent out to face Morecambe. FCBFCSA again playing on a fenced off pitch with dug-outs. Barnet were strong in numbers if not in health, after the long journey north, and sampling the legendary local hospitality, late into the early hours of the match.

Morecambe proved to be a strong and well organised team, and worthy of their status as Northern supporters champions. Barnet, were embarrassed to be three down at half time. However Barnet had started lively and the scoreline flattered Morecambe. Iain Dalziel, was a hero for stepping into the breach as keeper just before the match, when Mitchell was taken poorly. Lacking match practice, he let in two goals, that David Kirby would probably have saved. A dubious penalty, converted by Tony Fenton brought Barnet back into the game. The margin was narrowed to one by an own goal. However two late goals put the game out of Barnet's reach.

Dalziel (debut in goal), Clark Clayton, Currell, Minton, Taylor, Doe, Richards, Ramos, Fenton, Nally (debut).

Subs (all debutants) O' Sullivan, Snell, Jagan, Williamson.

Man of the match: Richards.

Old Elizabethans Five a side Tournament (19th August 2007)

FCBFCSA entered this inaugural 5 a side tournament. Late withdrawals left Barnet scratching around for players. They roped in David Kirby who was due to man the Beat the Goalie stand, debutant Kenan Mustafa, and Pete Williamson who only popped by to watch briefly. Completing the squad were Ollie Minton (c) Simon Sav Alavi, Matt Dodimead, and John Hunt.

Barnet surpassed all expectations playing against Sunday league teams. The tournament consisted of two groups of 8. Matches were 10 mins each. With a record of P8 W3 D3 L2 FCBFCSA were eliminated in the quarter finals.

- 1) Barnet 0 The Alexandra 1 (goal scored by Kieron Gallagher ex Barnet)
 - 2) Barnet 2 Red Lion 1 (Dodimead, Sav Alavi)
 - 3) Barnet 2 Roving Reporters 0 (Minton 2)
 - 4) Barnet 1 Old Stationers 1 (Sav Alavi)
 - 5) Barnet 0 Black Lion 0
 - 6) Barnet 2 Pinnacle Coaches 0 (Williamson, Minton)
 - 7) Finchley B 1 Barnet 1 (Williamson)
- QF Finchley A 3 Barnet 0

Barnet's player of the tournament Sav Alavi

Brentford 0 Barnet 4 (Aug 25 2007)

Other than the Hendon game, this proved to be the game Barnet dominated the most. Played surreally in the heart of a Sri Lankan festival in Southall, Brentford were never really at the races, as veteran Gradoni, and rookie Nally controlled the midfield. Currell and Sav Alavi, dealt with everything thrown at them in defence, and Mustafa and Manzi were able to push up from defence and attack. Ramos was a constant threat and Steve Betts, and Carl Swain added guile and experience. Barnet were even afforded the luxury of resting Minton until the second half.

Manzi scored twice, from a snapshot, and a Ronaldihoesque loft shot. Carl Swain weighed in with a second, and Steve Betts rounded it off. Kirby, pulling off a fine save, just before being replaced giving Barnet a satisfying clean sheet. There were promising debuts from Betts, Stanley, and Zitren.

Kirby (sub Goldman)Mustafa (Minton)Manzi,Currell,Alavi, Swain (Salinger(Hunt)),Ramos (Zitren),Gradoni,Nally,Goldman(Stanley), Betts

Man of the match Jake Manzi

At the time of writing, Barnet have a number of fixtures lined up. Fixtures and results below.
Join Facebook group FCBFCSA for more details.

15 September FCBFCSA 2 Rochdale 4 (h)
19 September Watford 2 FCBFCSA 1 (a)
13 October Mansfield (h)
27 October West Ham United (h)
17 Nov Shrewsbury (a)
12 Jan Milton Keynes (a)
19 Jan Peterborough (h)
16 Feb Peterborough (a)
23 Feb Milton Keynes (h)
1 Mar Shrewsbury (h)
5 Apr Mansfield (a)



MEETING THE AZBO'S

Chris Nash

Though the people of Barnet do not support the team in their thousands, the Bees have built up a following further afield. Last May, Village put me in contact with Christoph, one of our overseas supporters from German side VfL Bochum. Christoph and friends had come to Underhill in January, for our game against Macclesfield Town. Five of us travelled out to meet them, taking in their final home game of the season against Stuttgart. We met up in the Bierkutscher, Bochum's equivalent of the Queens Arms and were surprised to see a Barnet poster proudly displayed on the wall. We exchanged scarves and badges and were made very welcome.

Christoph and friends belong to the Azurro Bochum fanclub (AZBO for short). Fanclubs are an important part of German football culture. Club members enter the ground before the main crowd to display their flags. They are then led in signing by a person who stands at the front with a loudhailer. This creates a fantastic amount of noise, although perhaps at the expense of the terrace wit you find in England. We stood on the edge of the curva, where the beer sellers who walked the terraces were doing a roaring trade. Bochum lost the game 3-2 which was cue for a big party, as the result had knocked their nearest and not so dearest rivals S04 off the top of the Bundesliga.

All in all, it was a fantastic trip. Christoph is returning to Underhill this season and hopefully will enjoy it as much as we did. Barnet might not be Barcelona but it is nice to know that our fortunes are also followed from afar.



A VISIT TO UNDERHILL

Christoph Kuhnemund

On January 13th, three fans of VfL Bochum (Christian, Alexander and me) visited Underhill for the match against Macclesfield. We used the weekend for a groundhopping-trip to London. At the ground we met John Adkins. he told us a lot about the club and the stadium. We left Barnet really impressed by the kindness of the people at Barnet and the family atmosphere of your club.

Then, in May 2007 on the last match of Bochum against VfB Stuttgart (2-3) six Barnet supporters found their way to us. They visited our pub "Bierkutscher" beside the stadium and made us a gift: Barnet scarves. Together with the six from Barnet we enjoyed the match and had some beers afterwards. On Sunday they wanted to go to the Georg-Melches Stadion at Essen for the match Rot Weiss Essen-Wacker Burghausen (now 3th division). My brother Alex and me joined them to watch the match.



In June, when the football season was over, there was another Barnet-supporter visiting Bochum. We talked about football, music and other things. The photo I added is with him. We had a lot of fun together and even when it's sometimes hard to express correct English sentences, this friendship shows that we all speak one language together: football.

We are very proud about this friendship with the people we met and everyone of Barnet is welcome to Bochum anytime! So we look forward to visit Underhill again this year on September 15th for your home match against Rochdale. We await this day and wish you all the best in the meantime. Come on Barnet!

BFCSA monthly draw winner

Congratulations to James Cerveno, winner of our members' draw for September. James received his prize, a Barnet Home Shirt for the current season, from BFCSA chairman Keith Doe, and Steve Mann (BFCSA Membership Secretary) at the recent home game against Rochdale.



Between the end of last season and the beginning of the present one, I have made two trips to Europe. One to my usual haunt in Ivrea, Northern Italy, and the other to Vinberg in Sweden, the latter trip with my son Charles.

Six Barnet fans also visited Germany in May to visit some new-found German fans and watch their team VFL Bochum. Christoph and Alex from Bochum will be visiting Underhill for the Rochdale game.

Whilst in Italy I saw Ivrea lose at home to Massese. This defeat meant that they had to play pro sesto in a two-legged relegation play-off. Ivrea lost 1-0 on aggregate and were duly relegated to Serie C2. I have already booked my next trip to Ivrea in early October, and I will see them play at home against Cuneo whilst I'm there. Hopefully I'll witness a victory, which is something I've yet to see in all my visits to see them play.

In Sweden we saw two games, one a Division 4 match between Golf Ginsten and Alets IK, the other a top-flight match between IFK Gothenberg and Malmo. The first game resulted in a 3-1 win for Golf Ginsten, while Malmo snatched a 2-1 win with a 94th minute goal in the second match. During my time in Vinberg I was able to carry out a pre-arranged presentation of pennants, with the Chairman of the local side Vinbergs II.



It always pleases me to make new overseas contacts, the latest being Hae-Jo Cho from South Korea. I met him at the Carling Cup tie at Norwich, and again at the Hereford home game. We've exchanged contact details and we will be keeping in touch with each other.

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Below is a list of events scheduled for the BFCSA 2007/08 season. More details to follow in the match day programme and on the web.

Saturday 24th November. Underhill Centenary Celebration event – more details to follow.

Sunday 9th December. High Barnet Christmas Fair



Saturday 23rd February. Social Event – Music Quiz

Sunday 4th May. POTY Awards and Dinner.

MEET YOUR 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
- Drop an e-mail to info@bfcsa.co.uk, or
- Post a message on our forum <http://bfcsa.hosted-forum.com/>

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



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