



# News

## In this issue:

### A Fresh Start Page 1-2

TTN Editor Connor Kinsella introduces the third edition of the Terras Trust newsletter.

### New faces on the Terras Trust Board: Page 2

A great deal has changed in the last few months. Find out more about fresh developments within the Terras Trust Board.

### A Welcome Message from John West: Page 3

Meet the Chair of the Terras Trust Board

### It's Election Time Again: Page 3

Tony Baylis gets you up to speed on this summer's election process

### Instant News: Page 3

Go online and get up to the minute news.

### Meet the Terras Trust Board: Page 4

Find out who we are and say 'hello' on match days.

### The Buy at Shop: Page 5

Grab a bargain and help your Trust

### And Finally Page 4

Contact details and some final notes.

## A Fresh Start



Editor Connor Kinsella introduces Issue 3 of Terras Trust News.

First of all my apologies as Editor of Terras Trust News for not having

produced any TTNs for a very long time. We have in fact written several versions which have quickly been discarded to the bin thanks to the various upheavals and ever changing circumstances at WFC which have made each new issue completely out of date and redundant.

But at last we have finally come to some semblance of peace and quiet in the ranks and if anything else happens – tough. This is it. Version 3 of TTN will hit your post box or email inbox exactly as it is here.

As you may just have noticed, the biggest upheaval of an already dramatic season came in the dark winter months when Paul Cocks and Shaun Hennessey took over the reigns of the club from Malcolm Curtis and formed a new Board of Directors, which now includes myself as the Terras Trust representative.

Like the vast majority of fans I never would have thought for a moment I'd be involved in the management of the club, and there are times as a Director when I really do wonder what I've got myself into. For now, these are only fleeting thoughts, but it's fair to say that what the current management team have inherited is one almighty mess and it's taking many, many hours of hard work, telephone calls, emails and some highly pressurised face-to-face meetings to try and undo what was left behind.

At the risk of bleating on about what should be now very obvious and very well known, Weymouth Football Club is treading a financial tightrope. The club had got itself into a position where thousands of pounds worth of debt has been piled up, with little consideration as to how this debt was going to be paid back to the creditors.

I'm glad to report that my first impressions of representing the Terras Trust on the WFC Board have been overwhelmingly positive. We have a team of people whom demonstrate shrewd business acumen, positivity in the face of huge problems which seem to pop up on an almost hourly basis, but who are also very genuine and longstanding fans of the Terras. And although the writing of our 'mission statement' hasn't exactly been top of the list of priorities, the unofficial version is as follows: "We will do the right thing for Weymouth FC no matter what the consequences."

That's not spiel, it's something that gets repeated over and over again in communications between the board members, and I'm sure it's something we're all very glad to hear.

Nonetheless, the hard work goes on and my eyes have been opened very wide as the layers get peeled back further and further as to what has gone on before. Had I been in this position myself with the previous regime, with little or no experience of how the machine of a football club actually works, I might have been tempted to think that this is football and this is just how it is, but it even then it would be difficult to see how a business is meant to work on such chaotic foundations or how the 'money in' column

*(Continued on next page)*

could possibly match up with or exceed the 'money out' column of the spreadsheet.

By the time you read this WFC will be well on the way to appointing a new manager. Much has happened behind the scenes which cannot be revealed publicly until after the dust has settled, but needless to say the end of the season has not meant much in the way of 'down time' for the board and the hard-working staff at WFC HQ, who I'd never really acknowledged before but whom I have come to appreciate as a quite remarkable bunch of people. One of the major jobs at the moment is processing the several hundred share applications, a subject I've been asked about many times over the last few weeks. Having spoken to the club's Director of Finance Ian Winsor about this, they are apparently time consuming and laborious to do, especially as much of the work has involved undoing things that were not planned as well as they might have been in the first place. There are obviously legal implications to issuing share certificates in the right way, and for those of you still waiting for your proof of ownership – please be patient, they are on the way!

Some of the means by which the football club aims to keep going well into next season and beyond is by minimising some of the costs involved in maintaining the club. In other words, we are hoping to harness some 'volunteer power' for both the summer and next season as well. For those of you not online or who don't use the Message Board, please contact me at 07717 684678 (the Terras Trust contact phone number) if you have any skills or talents you could offer the club. The response has been very encouraging so far but there is a huge amount of work to do. We are hoping to put on some 'work party' sessions in and around the stadium with the princely sum of a beer and a sandwich to reward your efforts, but as we've seen before with Amy Francis' now legendary loo painting afternoon this can actually

be great fun while saving the club many hundreds of pounds that would otherwise be going out to contractors. And in any case, because it's our club we'll probably do a better job!

Finally, some exciting news for early next season, especially for the closet (and not so closet) Spurs fans among you. With an all too rare act of generosity in this day and age, Spurs legend Steve Perryman has offered his services for an 'evening with' event to raise funds for the football club. The evening is being arranged by TT Chair John West and details will be announced once the fixture list has been announced for next season. This will be a fantastic event (even for Arsenal fans) and is intended to be an affordable, relaxed evening with Exeter's Director of Football who is rumoured to be an extremely entertaining and amiable speaker.



Steve Perryman: Look out for his One Man Show early next season

Finally, just a quick plea. I am on the board of directors not because I want to wear a suit on match days or to feel important or even to get a free cappuccino at Café Oasis or a haircut at Blondz, but because I like and respect the current incumbents and believe in what they are doing and where they are trying to take our beloved football club. Please don't be afraid to get in touch with me personally or with any of the Terras Trust Board with anything you feel needs raising in the board room, or with any questions or issues you have with the Terras Trust itself.

Bye for Now.

## New Faces on the Terras Trust Board

The Terras Trust Board have had as turbulent a time as the football club itself, but a new broom has swept through the group since the last issue of Terras Trust News.

Most of you will now be familiar with our Chair John West who has occupied the hot seat for several months now. John has been involved with the Terras Trust from the outset, and has brought a quiet authority to the role during what has been a turbulent time for both the Trust and the club we support. More from John shortly.

We also welcome to our ranks Colin Huckle who has been co-opted to the TTB after volunteering his services.

Colin is a retired local authority administrator with many years experience in management of parks and open spaces. He has a long-standing interest in football and has been following Weymouth FC since moving to the Dorset coast from Essex four years ago. Colin has been asked to join the board as a co-opted member until we hold our annual elections in June this year, and has shown himself to be a fine Secretary in what is a demanding role which goes way beyond the typing and filing of nails the word 'secretary' normally suggests!

We are also lucky enough to have co-opted Nathan Wood into the ranks. Nathan is a well-known and longstanding Terras fan who has brought a keen and critical eye onto the TTB as well as his practical minute-taking and IT skills.

## A Welcome Message from John West

A few words from the Chair



Hello everyone. My reasons for taking over as Chair of the TTB are to ensure that workload and accountability are evenly divided amongst Board members over the next few months.

Since being elected to the Trust Board last year I've been working with other members to develop our Trust Business Plan. Now we need to turn that document into action. That means building up the Trust and includes informing and consulting our members better and generally raising our profile.

I'm keen that the Trust works closely with the Supporters Club and local business people to the benefit of the Club. I know we don't always get it right, but that's not for the want of trying. If we unite, as we know we can, the Club can draw in support and create a feelgood effect. The town needs a football club playing in the top division of the non-league structure, but there's a lot of hard work needed to maintain that simple aim. So please, let's work together on this.

John.

## It's Election Time Again

From Tony Baylis and the Election Supervisory Group

The Trust election process is well underway again this year. Last year saw the Trust carry out our first ever elections to appoint the first democratically elected Trust Board. To ensure every this is carried out in accordance with rules laid down by the Electoral Commission and Supporters Direct an Election Supervisory Group (ESG) is appointed by the Trust Board to carry out and oversee the process and the group must consist of Board members not standing themselves. For the second year running, myself and Steve Walkinshaw have volunteered our services and together with our new Secretary Colin Huckle we have been ploughing through election rules and plenty of coffee and biscuits to ensure that the 2009 election runs as smoothly as last year's success. All information is kept secret within the ESG until it is time to let you the electorate be aware of any information and even the remainder of the Trust Board are kept in the dark.

This year had been a bit of a doddle as the majority of hard work was done this time last year with the help and enthusiasm of our former Secretary Caroline Kinsella. The first election was definitely a steep learning curve and many hours were spent ploughing through rules and regulations to ensure everything went to plan. Saying that, we have already had three meetings, burnt the midnight oil, eaten more biscuits and sent out our initial letter to all shareholders with a detailed timetable and inviting members to stand for the vacant board places. Neil LeMilliere, who is on both the Board of Exeter City's Trust and Supporters Direct, has again offered his services to independently receive and count the ballot papers should a ballot be needed.

The Board has provision for eight elected members and four co-opted members and due to the resignations during 2008/09 there

are a total of three places up for grabs – none of which are currently filled. Next year, the remaining elected board places will be up for grabs.

We have already passed the deadline for applicants to request candidate packs and these have been sent out (however – only the ESG know how many!). The next stage is for the nomination forms, photo and manifestos to be forwarded – which should be around the same time as you are reading this article. On the 29<sup>th</sup> May the ESG will be sending out details of candidates and a ballot paper if required. The final result of the election process will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Wessex Stadium.

## Instant News

If you have received this edition of TTN by 'snail mail' and would prefer to receive it electronically, please contact the Trust with your e-mail address and we will ensure that future editions are sent to you via 'cyberspace'. The advantages of this are that you will get the TTN faster and it will save the Trust printing and postage costs.

Members with internet access and whose email details we hold are now able to receive online updates and announcements as they happen. Unfortunately, postage and time constraints mean we cannot offer a similar service to members whose email details we do not have, so if you would like to keep in touch online please email us at: [wfcst@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wfcst@yahoo.co.uk) And we will be glad to add you to our list.

## Meet the Terras Trust Board

Meet those TTB members who haven't been pictured elsewhere in TTN3. We're all glad to be approached on matchdays with any questions you may have about the Terras Trust.



**Matt Barton**  
Fundraising  
Secretary



**Richard McGowan**  
Webmaster



**Steve Walkinshaw**  
Treasurer



**Tony Baylis**  
Membership  
Secretary

## To Share and Share Alike

Like all supporters trusts it is our ultimate goal to encourage supporter representation to the football club's board of directors and encourage democratic elections to the board.

Weymouth Football Club have now co-opted Connor Kinsella as Terras Trust representative to the board of directors, and the Terras Trust have made a substantial £5000 purchase of shares in the football club. We stress that, with 1.2

million shares available this is only the start of a sustained effort to seek an increasing share of ownership in our football club with an ultimate goal of becoming a fully supporter owned football club.



Olympic Gold Medallist Darren Campbell, the Terras Trust Board and a cheque for £5000 of WFC shares

Throughout the history of the trust there has been discussion and offers of shares and proxies to the trust and we are now delighted to be able to make this happen.

The Terras Trust Board has also co-opted two talented individuals to the team in Colin Huckle and Nathan Wood which will allow us to register all offers of shares and proxy votes to the Trust.

### What is Proxy Voting?

Proxy voting is potentially a very important activity at football clubs where significant numbers of supporters hold individual shareholdings in the football club. This is because one of the primary objectives of a Supporters' Trust is to act as a vehicle of the collective will of the supporters of the club through mobilising shareholder power. This can be achieved by:

The Trust buying shares in the club in its own name on behalf of supporters.

The Trust seeking to act as a proxy voter for individual shareholders.

Granting a proxy vote to the Trust does not affect the ownership of shares. Shareholders continue to

own their shares. Voting rights do not equate to ownership of the shares.

We will of course enter any proxy or share transfer into a register of shares so that should any person wish to have their shares returned this can be undertaken. The Terras Trust therefore actively encourages this and believes that this will give substance and justification to its representation on the board of Weymouth FC. Letters explaining this issue in more detail and a form to enable you to transfer or proxy any shares you may wish are available to download from the Terras Trust website or by contacting us at the Forest Green Rovers game on Easter Monday. They are also available to download from the Terras Trust Website in our downloads section.

Or simply take a look at our mugshots here and on the website and catch us on match days - we'll be more than happy to help!

## The BuyAt Shop

- **Grab a Bargain**
- **Go on Holiday**
- **Make money for the Terras Trust**



- **All at the same time and all by visiting the same website!**

Sounds good? Check out [www.buy.at/terrastrust](http://www.buy.at/terrastrust) and save money on everything from books (Amazon) to groceries (Tesco) to holidays (Travelcare) to hotel rooms (Laterooms) and a whole host of products and services from top online retailers.

The Trust is paid commission for every item bought through the site, so if you already use Tesco or Next for your online shopping, try accessing them through our BuyAt site, and if you haven't yet tried shopping online - now is the ideal time to start!

## And finally

Well we hope you have enjoyed our third edition and are already looking forward to Issue 4 which will arrive shortly before the start of the new season, by which time the football club will hopefully have secured some semblance of financial stability and a guarantee that we'll be able to compete in the Blue Square South. For now though, lets be grateful that we still have a club to support even if it means trips to the green and pleasant land that is Havant and Waterlooville.

Please keep the suggestions coming and give us your views on Terras Trust News Issue 3 - it's your news so please let us know what you think! If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions for the Trust Board we are contactable as follows:

**Web:** [www.terrastrust.co.uk](http://www.terrastrust.co.uk)

**E-mail:** [wfcst@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wfcst@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tel:** 07717 684678

**Post:** c/o JCK Training  
PO BOX 5381  
Weymouth DT4 9ZX