

QUAKERRETAIL

Quaker Retail, Darlington FC's official club shop, is based upstairs at Blackwell Meadows in the Main Clubhouse. Parking at Blackwell Meadows is free!

The shop stocks a wide range of official club merchandise including the Avec Home and Away replica shirts, Avec leisurewear, hats, scarves, gifts and souvenirs. We also have a small stand at Heritage Park for home games on a Saturday. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or debit/credit card in both the shop at Blackwell Meadows and on the stand at Heritage Park.

Back in stock, just in time for the fine weather, is the Adult black baseball cap at £9 and we still have **all** Adult sizes available in the Avec Away replica shirt, now reduced to only £20.

Quaker Retail is staffed entirely by a team of volunteers who give freely of their own time to provide the service for our supporters.

Our shop opening hours are: **Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm**

E-mail us at shop@dfc1883.co.uk for shop-related enquiries only please.

We also have an online shop which carries the full range of official club merchandise. The site is especially popular with Darlo exiles both home and abroad. So why not visit us online at www.darlingtonfootballclub.co.uk and click on **Club Shop!**



@QuakerRetail

Michael Robinson



FAN FARE is an opportunity for Darlo fans to voice their opinion about any Quaker-related matter. Today Stewart Bowman waxes lyrical about one of the all-time Quaker greats.

My favourite all-time player for Quakers was George McGeachie, a traditional Scottish winger - small, tricky, two-footed, a good dribbler and capable of crossing the ball onto a pinhead.



He came to Feethams in January 1963 in an unusual way - his work brought him to ICI Billingham from Dundee. The previous season he had been a member of Dundee's first team squad which had just won the Scottish Championship. It was the equivalent of Martin Gray signing one of last year's Celtic squad.

George's first game was a disaster - the infamous ten-nil trouncing at Doncaster! Indeed, he only scored 9 goals in 119 games but he specialised in creating goals. There were no stats tables then, but the team scored 213 goals in the time George was there and an educated guess would suggest that George made 50% of them! Without his service from the wing, the Quakers would surely not have gained promotion in the 65/66 season. Apart from winning promotion that season, perhaps the highlight of George's career with the Quakers was when he scored one of the goals in our 2 -1 League Cup win in 1965 against Blackpool, then a respected First Division club with four internationals in the side.

George's career was ended in the old Third Division in October 1966 by a crude tackle by the Gillingham left back. He continued to work for ICI and became a senior manager.

Please email your "Fan Fare" articles to Steve Rees on: newsletter@reesdfc.fsnet.co.uk

"Darlo Matters" Editor: Steve Rees Email: newsletter@reesdfc.fsnet.co.uk

DARLO MATTERS

An opportunity for fans to read about what's happening at Darlington Football Club

Issue 3 - April 2015



"Our clubs are for life, not just for business"

BOARDROOM TALK

The Board of Darlington Football Club is delighted to announce yet another new sporting partnership - this time with Sedgefield Racecourse.

Over the coming months, both parties are aiming to offer their fans value added benefits for their continued support throughout the year, the details of which will be shared as events and opportunities arise. The partners are also planning to maximise their respective commercial opportunities and ongoing engagement with local businesses and the wider community.

Jill Williamson, Executive Director at Sedgefield Racecourse, said "I am really looking forward to developing this new partnership with Darlington FC - it is an exciting time for both venues which sees our application for more family-friendly fixtures coming to fruition as well as the rebuilding of Darlington FC's new home".



Martin Jesper added, "I am delighted with this partnership. As we rebuild the Club's credibility and brand awareness within the region, it is vital that we choose the correct partners with whom we can establish healthy relationships, and whose aspirations are closely aligned to our own. Sedgefield hosts County Durham's largest racecourse and, given that we arguably boast the largest fan base in the county, the sporting connection and commercial partnership present a huge number of exciting opportunities for us all".

Dave Mills Director, Club Development

The Utility Warehouse proved very useful to me!



After my chat with Andrew Matthews last time I signed up and spoke with him again.

So, Steve, how did you find the process?

Easy, Andrew. I made the call and everything was explained in a language I could understand - and they arranged everything for me.

What did you end up doing?

Well, I transferred my gas and electricity, home phone and broadband and I took out a SIM for my mobile.

That's great. How much are you saving?

I am going to be saving about £22 a month, about £264 a year. So I am rather happy with that.

So you are saving money every month and also Darlo will get around £5 each month you pay your bill. That's fantastic - a WIN for you and a WIN for the club!

Certainly is, Andrew, and of top of that I am loving the online cashbacks. Every time I use **ebay** I get 5% of the amount I spend credited back on my bill.

Glad it's working out for you. We just need more of the fans to take advantage of this and help raise money for OUR club.

To sign up, have a chat with Andrew at any match, log on at www.utilitywarehouse.org.uk/K42292 or call the freephone number **0800 131 3000** and quote our club reference number - **K42292**.





SUPPORTERS DIRECT TAKE THE LEAD IN COMMUNITY ROLE

As you are aware, the last Fans' Survey clearly indicated that they would prefer one recognised 'fans group'. We took this on board and the CIC, Supporters Trust and Supporters Club agreed to combine and move forward working as one. The CIC converted first to a CBS (Community Benefit Society) and then the Supporters Club and the Trust joined alongside after consultation with each group's members. There was a lot of work involved behind the scenes and the conversion would have been impossible without the assistance and guidance of **Supporters Direct**.

Supporters Direct has recently launched its "Crowdfunder" campaign as part of Supporters Ownership Week and the aim is to raise in excess of £20k to assist with the work that **Supporters Direct** does to convert clubs into supporter ownership.

James Mathie, Club Development Manager for **Supporters Direct**, said:

"The good news is that supporter ownership of clubs is really building up a head of steam. We owe a lot of that to the 40 clubs that are inspiring the next wave to come through. At the moment we are at various stages of exploring and securing this ownership model for 10 clubs, and we want to do more to encourage this growth still further, supporting those that make it and helping them really see the benefits of the model. What is great is that we are working increasingly with clubs that recognise the benefits and choose to become supporter-owned, rather than it being a model of last resort."



The work of **Supporters Direct** has been essential in creating 40 supporter-owned clubs in the U.K with each club set up on the principle of delivering community benefit. If you want to help change the game and provide a sporting future for a community under supporter ownership, you can donate to the "Crowdfunder" campaign by going to www.crowdfunder.co.uk/supporter-ownership-week

DON'T FORGET! Tickets for our own fundraising events — Abba (17th April) and our end-of-season party (2nd May) - are still available from the Fans' table at HP, Quaker Retail or any member of the Fundraising Group. We hope to see most of you there as our own fundraising efforts continue, all proceeds to the Back to Darlo fund. *Jo Cameron*



Darlington Football Club has been privileged this season to have our Away Kit sponsored by the **Great North Air Ambulance (GNAA)** and would like to pay tribute to their vital community role. Recently a man was fitting a garage door when his electric saw kicked up and caused lacerations from his upper lip right down his neck. Paramedics arrived to stem the blood loss but judged that immediate hospitalisation was necessary. Due to serious traffic congestion, the Air Ambulance was summoned, transporting the man to James Cook Hospital. Several blood transfusions and 200 stitches later, and due to the immense skills of the medics involved, the operation was a success and the man survived. However, would the outcome have been so positive, if the Air Ambulance had not been available? As a community club, **Darlington FC** urge you to give generously to the GNAA whenever you can – **can we afford not to?**



How can I help the Quakers next season? Easy, become a volunteer!

The help and support of our volunteers remain vital to promote the club's progress both on and off the pitch. As a regular feature in **Darlo Matters**, I shall be asking some of the club's volunteers to describe in their own words what drives them to give their time and service to the club. I asked life-long fan and matchday steward Dave Collinge what it means to him.

"As a volunteer, Saturday matchday starts at 11.00 when I pick up a couple of colleagues and drive to the ground. I've played and watched football, so volunteering is largely an extension of my passion for the game and wanting to be close to it.



I usually arrive at the ground around 11.45 when I bag the bins. At 1.30 I sell programmes with Mary and Glen Bowes, a good time to talk about the game with the lads selling the 50-50 tickets and then I hold out the bucket for the *Back to Darlo* donations. I close at kick-off time.



During the game, I generally take a pitch somewhere near an exit so I can retrieve balls, normally the ones which Gary Brown knocks out of the ground!!! From my Sunday morning days (only grassroots) I'm only too conscious of how much football gear costs and it keeps Thommo happy.

It is at the end of the game when things get really busy and I tidy up the changing rooms. My Sunday morning roles have emphasised how important it is to get things right off the pitch as well as on it. It's also a good time to chat with the players and officials from both teams who are all very approachable. Around 6.30, I pop up to the bar and have some craic with the brilliant hospitality volunteers. I would encourage anybody to offer their services as a volunteer, whether it is just for an hour or even longer. Come and join us!"



Thank you to Dave for sharing this with us. If any other volunteer would like to write something similar for **Darlo Matters** please email me at keithlowis@me.com

SPONSOR A GOAL – Well done, Nathan Cartman! At March 31st, the amount raised this season has exceeded **£1450**. With 7 games to go (yes, I'm still optimistic for automatic promotion) hopefully we will surpass the amount raised last season - thank you very much for your support.

A call for pledges on Twitter (@beardedian) before the New Mills game caught the imagination of followers, and thanks to goals from Nathan Cartman and Stephen Thompson (as well as Dowson and Armstrong) the amount raised on the night was more than doubled, and meant Cartman pushed the skipper off the top of the individual player-pledge league table.



In the final run-in, pledges will be accepted on a game by game basis, and instant payments can be made on the day by PayPal or bank transfer. For those who have supported the scheme all season, thank you again and I hope you will roll your pledges over to next season.

Final amounts due will be sent out after our final game, along with payment details. The scheme will be back for its fourth season in August, details of how to join will be posted on social media, via the Darlington FC website, and through the match programme and Darlo Matters. *Ian Roberts #comeondarlo#SAG*

