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>> THE MATCH DAY PROGRAMME OF **DARLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB**

THE QUAKER

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DARLINGTON V BRACKLEY

SATURDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2017 | KICK OFF 3.00PM | BLACKWELL MEADOWS

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from the dugout

>> WITH TOMMY WRIGHT

I must begin my first programme column by thanking everyone for giving me and Alan such a warm welcome before the home game against Bradford Park Avenue a fortnight ago.

Darlington Football Club has always been special to me, I shall never forget all the great support that I was given during my two playing spells at the club. I have some great memories, especially from my second time such as winning the FA Trophy at Wembley.

Unfortunately as a player I left soon after, and I must admit that I was really touched by the welcome I received when I returned as Nuneaton manager last season. So, bearing in mind the strong bond that has been formed between me and the club over the years, I was absolutely thrilled when I was offered the chance to become manager a fortnight ago. There is so much potential here, and the fanbase is so big, it really is a great chance for me and Alan to help this club back into the Football League.

It was really good to see so many familiar faces at the Bradford and Blyth games and I sense a strong feeling of togetherness between players and fans, which is something that I want to build upon as we progress.

From the two games that I've seen so far, I'm happy with the team's performances, and I've been impressed by plenty of things, such as the players' attitude, their team spirit and their ability. There are several leaders in the dressing room which is a big plus, so overall it's not as if we are starting from scratch.

I was happy with our actual play at Blyth last week, we lost the game because of individual errors, and to give credit to the lads concerned, those who made the mistakes held their hands up straight away – which only goes to prove what an honest bunch of lads they are in the dressing room. Alan and I can accept mistakes, as everyone learns from them and people are doing their jobs right.

There were still plenty of positives from last Saturday, and even though we lost, we are still just two points below the play off positions – on the other hand, we should have won last Saturday and be in the play offs now! Our top priority this season is the play offs, and we will be making every effort to reach them.

I must also thank all the fans who made the trip up to Blyth, your support was fantastic. I am really looking forward to this journey together!

Tommy

V BRACKLEY

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Building the future together

>> BY DAVID JOHNSTON

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the game.

I'd like to use these notes to formally welcome Tommy Wright and Alan White to the club. They don't need any introduction, because they've both been at the club before, and both of them were already well thought of.

We were very pleased to secure their services because they were outstanding in the interview process. Both of them showed a huge amount of enthusiasm and a real desire to take the club forward – hopefully to the Football League – and to strengthen its position as a club at the heart of the community. Tommy in particular is keen to work with the club's academy and encourage the young talent we have within it. Three of our youngsters, for example, were guests of Portuguese side FC Porto last week.

We will give Tommy and Alan time to work out the strengths and weaknesses in the squad – although I suspect they already have some idea based on their first two matches - -and when they feel that they're in a position to make improvements then we will do the best we can to bring them about within our budget.

We now have four big games coming up which could see us improve our situation greatly. After today, we have a home game against Tamworth and an away game at Kidderminster, while we will start our FA Trophy campaign in three weeks' time. We would love to have a run in the FA Trophy, not only for the interest it generates, but also for the prize money that it brings.

It is also important that we generate as much income as possible, so please continue to purchase 50/50 tickets, programmes and our hospitality offerings. It really is a great experience watching our matches from our hospitality area.

The Supporters Group is working hard at the moment on raising £50,000 before the end of the year, and I urge everyone to contribute to their fundraising pitches – the sooner that we hit the target to "Raise the Roof" then the sooner we can get on with improving the facilities at Blackwell Meadows to the league's satisfaction. I also plan to attend the AGM of the Supporters Group on November 16th.

Finally, I would like to welcome the officials, players and fans from Brackley and hope they have a safe journey home.

Enjoy the game

David

Coming to **Blackwell Meadows** today...

Brackley

Brackley are our visitors today, and Simon Hahn has been doing some research on them.

KEY MOMENTS IN THEIR HISTORY

- Founded in 1890 and became a prominent side in the local Northamptonshire area
- Moved to current St James Park ground in 1974
- In early 90's the club's survival was in danger and in 1992/93 they finished with the worst playing record of any senior side in the country
- Brackley were forced into voluntary liquidation in February 1999
- The 2003/04 season saw them win the Hellenic League to gain promotion back to the Southern League
- Three seasons later they gained promotion to the Southern Premier division
- They reached the first round of the FA Cup for the first time in 2008/09
- Arguably the club's greatest moment came at the end of the 2011/12 season when they lifted the Southern League Premier Division title to gain a place in the National North
- In 2013/14 they beat Gillingham live on TV in the FA Cup first round, a feat which they repeated in 2016-17, again beating Gillingham.

LAST SIX MATCHES

28/10/2017 Boston United (A) Won 3-2

21/10/2017 Blyth Spartans (H) Won 3-1

17/10/2017 Billericay Town (A) Lost 2-1 FA Cup 4Q Reply

14/10/2017 Billericay Town (H) Drew 3-3 FA Cup 4Q

07/10/2017 York City (A) Lost 2-1

30/09/2017 Braintree Town (H) Won 4-1 FA Cup 3Q

LAST SIX SEASONS

2016/17 National League North – Points 73 Position 7th

2015/16 National League North - Points 46 Position 19th

2014/15 National League North – Points 47 Position 18th

2013/14 National League North – Points 69 Position 7th

2012/13 National League North – Points 85 Position 3rd

2011/12 The Evo-Stik League Southern Premier – Points 85 Position 1st

2017/18 STATS

- Have the joint best defensive record in the division, conceded 13 goals so far
- Only unbeaten side in the league at home, five wins and two draws
- Yet to be involved in a game with more than five goals in it
- Top scorer is Aaron Williams, seven goals

LAST SEASON

They started off impressively winning five of their opening nine matches including a 2-1 win away at Kidderminster Harriers. By the end of November, they had only lost two league games, against Alfreton Town and Worcester. This coincided with a fantastic FA Cup run in which they beat Gillingham 4-3 in a replay, before falling in the second round to Blackpool.

They continued to have success in the cup competitions, as impressive victories over Fylde, Stockport County and Wealdstone saw them reach the quarter-finals of the FA Trophy, where York City knocked them out at Bootham Crescent, 1-0.

For much of the season they had games in hand due to the success in cups, but their league form trailed away after the turn of the year. After back-to-back defeats against Salford and ourselves at Blackwell Meadows they did turn their fortune around. They went unbeaten in their last nine league games winning six of them. However, despite this late season run they just missed out on the playoffs. They finished the campaign in an impressive seventh place, just one point behind Chorley who clinched the last playoff place.

LAST MATCH

Boston United 2-3 Brackley

Brackley recorded a fifth win in six visits to Boston's York Street ground after another five-goal game.

Andy Brown found the bottom corner to give Saints a 10th minute lead which was doubled by Shane Byrne five minutes later as excellent build-up play on the left found Aaron Williams who threaded his pass across goal where Byrne made no mistake from close range, his third goal in four games.

Williams was on the score-sheet straight after the interval extending the visitors' lead, firing in from an angle after keeper George Willis could only parry Adam Walker's shot.

A dubious 53rd minute penalty however, perfectly despatched by Ashley Hemmings, spurred a revival by the home side and then a long throw caused a goalmouth scramble and substitute Jay Rollins fired in as the loose ball fell to him. The Boston manager Adam Murray resigned after the game.

Brackley Town: Lewis, Myles, Franklin, S.Byrne, Graham, Dean, G.Walker, J.Byrne, Brown (Ndlovu 74), A.Williams (Armson 83), A.Walker. Subs not used: Tilney, Lowe, Diggin.

PLAYERS/MANAGERS

MANAGER – KEVIN WILKIN

Former striker Wilkin played professionally for Northampton Town in the early 90's, also having spells with Cambridge United, Nuneaton, Rushden and Diamonds and

Coming to **Blackwell Meadows** today...

Brackley

Grantham Town.

His managerial career started at Nuneaton Borough, where after re-joining the club for his second spell this time as player/assistant manager he took over as permanent manager in 2006. After Borough was liquidated he was appointed manager of the new club Nuneaton Town. The club's first season saw Wilkin guide them to promotion through the play-offs after victory over Chasetown in the final. The season after his side clinched back-to-back promotions, again through the play-offs, this time beating Chippenham Town in the deciding game. However, perhaps his greatest accomplishment at Nuneaton was in 2012 when he guided them back into the Conference Premier after a nine year absence following another play-off triumph, thanks to a 1-0 win over Gainsborough Trinity.

He took over Conference Premier rivals Wrexham, but only lasted a year in the job. While they struggled in the league they reached the FA Trophy final. However, despite facing part time side North Ferriby United at Wembley they threw away a 2-0 lead to eventually lose on penalties, a result which led to Wilkin being sacked less than 24 hours later.

Wilkin took over at Brackley early in the 2015/16 season and guided them to safety in the National North on the final day of the season.

GARETH DEAN CAPTAIN

Defender Gareth Dean was signed from Solihull in the close season and is the current Brackley Town captain. At Solihull he was a member of the successful title winning side of last season. He signed for Solihull from Nuneaton, the club where he had spent the whole of his career up to this point, making his début for the club as an 18 year old in 2008. He made almost 300 appearances, earning three promotions in his first four seasons at Liberty Way, as the club climbed swiftly to the Conference Premier. He was included in the England "C" squad to play against Latvia Under-23s in September 2013. He was named in the Conference North team of the year for 2015/16 and teams up again with Kevin Wilkin who managed him at Nuneaton.

JAMES ARMSON

Armson was signed last summer, like

Gareth Dean, from Solihull. He was another player who gained promotion in 2016 after joining Solihull in the close season of 2015 from Nuneaton, James had progressed through Town's youth set-up and gained his England "C" cap in 2013 against Latvia. In his five year stint with Nuneaton James amassed over 100 games scoring 17 times. He brings valuable experience to the squad and is the personification of versatility having played for Nuneaton in every position on the pitch, including goalkeeper. However James favours an attacking midfield role and is a former Boro Player of the Year.

SHANE BYRNE

Shane Byrne signed from Nuneaton Town where he enjoyed a successful spell last season. Shane started his career at Dublin and was part of the youth team that reached the quarter finals of the FA Youth Cup in the 2010–11 season. On the international transfer deadline day in 2011 Byrne withdrew from the Republic of Ireland U19 squad in order to move on loan to Bury F.C.

Byrne made his professional début for Bury against Sheffield United on 3

September 2011. However, his time at Bury was curtailed after picking up an ankle injury at Colchester United on 10 December 2011. On 23 June 2015, it was confirmed that Byrne had joined Nuneaton Town, from where he joins the Saints. Byrne has represented the Republic of Ireland at U-17 on two occasions.

Squad:

Manager: Kevin Wilkin

Assistant Manager: Mark Noon

Goalkeeper: Danny Lewis

Defenders: Gareth Dean, Alex Gudger, Ben Tilney, Ellis Myles, Connor Franklin, Luke Graham, Jordan Williams

Midfielders: James Armson, Adam Walker, Matt Lowe, Glenn Walker, Jack Byrne, Shane Byrne, Greg Kaziboni

Strikers: Lee Ndlovu, Steve Diggin, Andy Brown, Aaron Williams

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Last time we met

STEPHEN THOMPSON SCORES THE WINNER AGAINST BRACKLEY LAST SEASON

Darlington: Wilczynski, Marrs, Ferguson, Turnbull, Hunter, Galbraith, Syers, Falkingham, Beck, Cartman (sub Gillies 90+1), Thompson (sub Saunders 74)

Subs: Jameson, Wearmouth, Hume

Brackley:

L Walker, Clifton, Gudger, Byrne, Gough, Dean, G Walker, Lowe (Myles 64), Moyo (sub Diggin 80), Hempenstall (sub Ndlovu 64), A Walker

Subs: Pitt, Barnes-Homer

Attendance 1547

> 20TH MARCH 2017

Darlington 1 Brackley 0

Darlington moved up to fifth place in the National League North table thanks to a Stephen Thompson winner against Brackley.

Considering that Quakers were missing their two regular centre halves, they never looked as if they would concede a goal, to record their second successive clean sheet and their fourth game in a row unbeaten.

Quakers nearly scored on 6 minutes, when Thompson crossed from the right, and Brackley defender Alex Gudger turned the ball towards the top corner of his own net, but keeper Laurie Walker clawed the ball away.

Quakers had the ball in the net on 21 minutes when David Syers headed in a Thompson cross, but the ref penalised Terry Galbraith for a foul on the keeper.

Quakers had a chance on 24 minutes when Cartman cut in from the left and struck a low drive that Walker saved, then David Syers had a shot blocked ten yards out after a good flowing move.

Another good move ended with Thompson forcing Walker into a good save, but Brackley had the chance of the half though when Jordan Hempenstall nodded the ball down for Matt Lowe, who was unmarked 12 yards out, but Darlington keeper Ed Wilczynski saved.

Quakers' early second half pressure was rewarded when they took the lead on 54 minutes. Beck and Syers both had attempts blocked in a crowded penalty area, but the ball ran on for Thompson to lash into the roof of the net for his sixth league goal of the season.

Quakers stayed firmly in control after that, and after a five minute stoppage because of a head injury to Brackley's Glenn Walker, they nearly got a second when Walker tipped Mark Beck's header from Galbraith's free kick over the bar.

JOINT CARETAKERS GARY BROWN AND PHIL TURNBULL EMBRACE EACH OTHER AFTER THE 2-1 HOME WIN OVER BRADFORD PA IN OUR LAST HOME GAME

Gary Brown

Defender Gary Brown says that he enjoyed his spell as caretaker manager alongside Phil Turnbull, but he isn't thinking of a career in management just yet.

The popular pair had a three game joint spell in charge, in which the team won once and drew once and provided some vital stability following the departure of Martin Gray.

"Now that I've been a caretaker manager, I appreciate much more of what goes into management," he said. "As a player, you turn up for training and play matches, you don't do much else.

"As a manager, there is so much more to do. Just in those couple of weeks, I spent a load of time on the phone to different people. I spoke to Peter Beardsley at Newcastle and Darren Edmondson at Carlisle about trying to get players on loan, and other managers and people about our opponents.

"I found myself watching highlights on websites, checking backgrounds and all sorts. I spent time writing up setpieces to use in training and pre match team talks

"Phil put on some great coaching sessions, and I think with him being a teacher, he was able to put his points and ideas across – I suppose it was second nature to him!

"Maybe I'll go into management when I finish playing. I'm 30 years old, and I still think I've got some playing years in me. But look at Tommy – he's 33 years old and has been a manager for four years already! I think if I do become a manager, then I would probably need someone with me to do the coaching."

The two Ws were appointed just hours before the Bradford game a fortnight ago, but Tommy wanted Gary to play a part still at Blyth last Saturday.

"Tommy asked me to go in the dugout at Blyth, and I was delighted. He said that he wanted an extra pair of eyes on the bench, and I was pleased to help out.

"When you're injured, the worst part about that is not feeling an integral part of the group. As much as the other lads talk to the injured lads to console them, you still feel separated from the group.

"So it was great to feel as if I was helping out in some ways, instead of sitting in the stand and getting frustrated.

"I'm really looking forward to playing under Tommy and Alan. They haven't put any pressure on the players. From the first time we met them before the Bradford game, they've encouraged the lads to go out and express themselves.

"They've told us not to worry about mistakes, as long as they're done honestly and we learn from them. All the lads have responded really well to them because they're so positive. They made the players feel at ease straight away, and as a player, that's how you want it."

Gary also thanked the fans for their help and support during his caretaker spell.

"The fans were fantastic towards us when Phil and I were in charge, but we didn't expect anything else. They're a great bunch, and they've always supported the two of us as players. We knew that we wouldn't get any negativity from them.

"Phil and I both thoroughly enjoyed our brief spells as caretaker managers, but I was pleased to hand the job over. There is so much more to consider.

"Now, I'm concentrating on getting myself fully fit again, and giving my all for Tommy and Alan on the pitch."

TOM PORTAS LAUNCHES THE VIRGIN TRAINS 25 PER CENT DISCOUNT TRAVEL SCHEME.

JOSH GILLIES' FREE KICK IS ON ITS WAY INTO THE NET FOR THE SECOND GOAL

REFLECTIONS

21ST OCTOBER 2017
DARLINGTON 2 | BRADFORD PA 1

Caretaker managers Gary Brown and Phil Turnbull took charge of their last game, and their hard work was rewarded with the three points against Bradford PA, to put us tenth in the table.

KEY MOMENTS:

2 – 1-0! Quakers took the lead when Leon Scott crossed low from the left, Nathan Cartman headed towards goal, and Bradford defender Graham Kelly put the ball into the net.

6 – Phil Turnbull fires just wide.

30 – Man of the match Stephen Thompson has a shot blocked on the six yard line.

54 – 2-0! Josh Gillies curls a free kick from the left over everyone and the ball drops into the net for his fifth goal of the season

60 – David Syers bursts down the right and fires narrowly wide of the post

65 – Adam Bartlett pulls off a great save from a Mark Ross piledriver

75 – Joe Wheatley volleys just wide from a Harvey Saunders pass

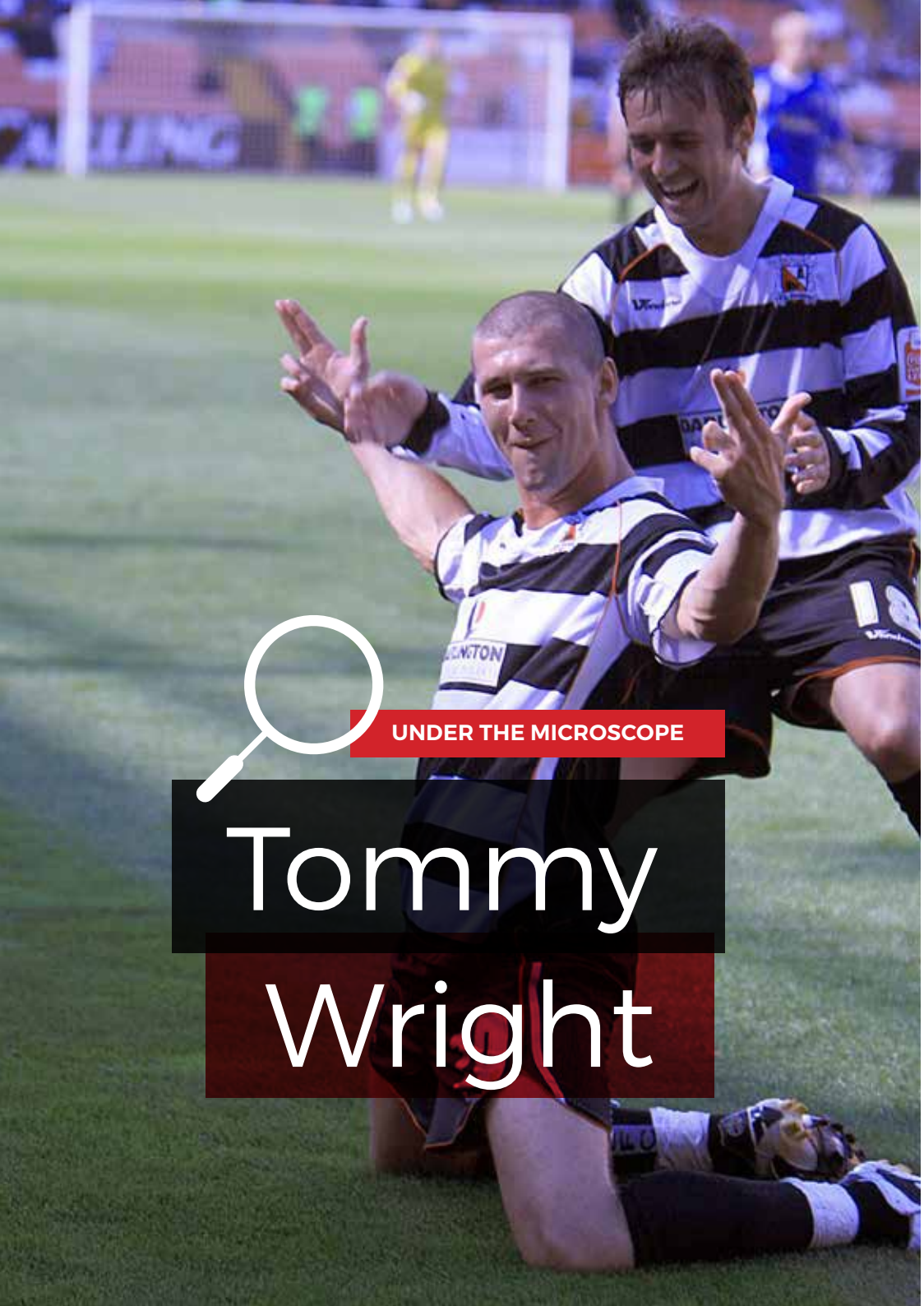
85 – Syers has a close range shot from a Saunders lay off blocked

89 -- Oli Johnson pulls a goal back for Bradford with a header

92 – Johnson hits the bar, and Quakers breathe again.

Quakers: Bartlett, Marrs, Scott, Turnbull, Collins, Galbraith, Gillies, Portas (sub Wheatley 69), Syers, Cartman (sub Saunders 76), Thompson (sub Caton 83)

Subs: Burgess, Wilczynski



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Tommy Wright

Tommy Wright takes charge of his first home game as Darlington manager, just over six years after playing his last game for us at Wembley. He spoke to Ray Simpson.

Tommy seems to have packed a lot into his football career already, at the age of just 33.

A senior debut in the Premier League, England representative caps, a play off final appearance, a Wembley winner, promotion and relegation as a manager – and now three times a Quaker!

He started his football career at Leicester City, working his way up through the club's youth sides and making his debut as a 17 year old against Leeds United in the Premier League in March 2002.

He scored his first senior goal for them in the following season when Leicester won at Gillingham in the Championship, and he made 13 appearances in the 2002-03 season as they bounced back into the Premier League. He also picked up caps for England Under 19s and England Under 20s.

Unfortunately, Tommy couldn't get into the Leicester team in the Premiership return season, so he was loaned out to Brentford and Blackpool before he signed for Barnsley for a £50,000 fee in 2006, helping the Tykes win the League One play offs at the Millennium Stadium.

After a loan period at Walsall, he signed for Quakers on the guarantee of regular first team football for the first time in in January 2007, and after scoring on his debut against Bury, he finished the season with four goals in total.

Tommy was distracted by a few things at the time though, and one day was taken to one side by Martin Gray, who was assistant manager to Dave Penney at the time.

"I was all over the place at one point because so much was going on in my life. One day after training, Martin dragged me into the away changing room, and gave me what you would call a reality check. He told me to stop feeling sorry for myself! After that, I never looked back."

Tommy was just about unstoppable the following season, when he became a firm favourite with the fans. He scored 13 times in the league in the 2007-08 season, but he picked up a bad injury in the first leg of the play off semi final against Rochdale, and missed the second leg at Spotland.

"That was very frustrating, because I was in great goalscoring form. I was on crutches in the days before the second leg, and we had that many injuries in the squad that someone suggested that maybe I should have an injection in order to play, but I could hardly walk let alone run! There were nine of us injured in the back of the stand! If most of those players had stayed fit, then I'm sure we would have won promotion that season. It was sickening to lose in the play offs because obviously we wanted to play at Wembley."

However, Quakers were then forced to sell Tommy to ease their financial burden (to put it diplomatically) and he moved to Aberdeen the following summer for £100,000, but the move didn't work out, and he joined Grimsby on a free transfer in January 2010.

"There were a few clubs after me at the end of that season, including Aberdeen and Rochdale. I wasn't really bothered about moving, because I'd just bought a house and was quite settled. I'd also made some very good friends in the Darlington area, and I really loved it.

"But Dave Penney said that the club wasn't in a good place financially and even though we were both reluctant that I should go, I was sold to Aberdeen. Dave was under pressure from above to sell me and bring some money in."

He came back to Quakers in the summer of 2010 in a signing that was initiated by manager Simon Davey, and completed by chairman Raj Singh after Davey left. Under new manager Mark Cooper he played 29 times in total, including that famous game at Wembley when his header hit the bar and Chris Senior headed in the rebound. Ironically, that was his last touch of the ball as a Darlo player.

"Mark Cooper came in as manager, but I don't think he really took to me, and I was more out of the side than in it. I came on as sub in the first Trophy semi final against Gateshead when we came from behind to win 3-2, but I wasn't even in the squad

for the second leg at the International Stadium. I felt as if I was frozen out, there were a couple more players like me who stayed at home that day. I was well out of the picture, and was training with the youth team. I kept working hard by myself, and trying to convince myself that something was going to happen. I knew that I had to remain professional and not let the situation get to me.

"Then I was recalled to the team for a couple of league games because of injuries. One of the centre halves was injured, so Liam Hatch had to move from the forward line into defence. I scored against York City at home, and then against Rushden at home in the final league game. That was enough to keep me in the team for Wembley.

"I could have had a hat trick in the final, it was my boyhood dream to score at Wembley. But I wasn't sharp enough because I hadn't played enough games. I thought I was going to score with the diving header near the end, I really thought it was going in. I was really high in the air, level with the ball, but it went wide! It was almost the last touch of the ninety minutes, it would have been brilliant to score the winner then.

"I left that honour to Chris Senior. I did the hard work for him, heading the ball against the bar! I've watched the video on You Tube a lot, because it was the only time I've played at Wembley, and I was lucky enough to finish on the winning side. I've still got my medal and loads of photos."

Tommy was released by Cooper a few weeks after – he wasn't really surprised – and after playing for Kidderminster and Luton, went to Corby as a player, and quickly, with some coaching badges behind him, became player-manager on the recommendation of a friend of the chairman. He won the Southern League title there, but they were relegated in their first season because they couldn't compete financially.

"I've got a title win with Corby behind me. People point to the fact that I've got a relegation as well, but the reason why I stuck it out at Corby was that the experience would stand me in good stead, and it would teach me a lot, and it did."

Nuneaton boss Kevin Wilson then approached Tommy to be player-coach, but within a few weeks he was made manager, and guided Nuneaton to an eight game winning run, that lifted them out of the relegation zone and into midtable safety.

One of those wins was against Quakers at Blackwell Meadows. "I felt very emotional last season when I returned as manager of Nuneaton and the fans gave me such a warm welcome back. I will always remember that applause, especially at the end of the game even though we had beaten Darlington."

When Tommy was offered the manager's job at Darlington last month, needless to say with all the positive experiences at Darlington previously, he jumped at the chance.

"Without doubt, I have affection for the football club, I have spoken about it for a long time. I always looked upon Darlington as my second home behind Leicester where I started my football career. The fanbase here is fantastic, and to manage a football club of this stature is an honour and a privilege. I'll give it my everything.

"The ambition of this football club is to get back into the Football League. I left a full time group at Nuneaton and thoroughly enjoyed that, and it's made me a better coach and a better manager, but managing Darlington was an opportunity that I couldn't turn down."

Tommy approached Alan White to be his number two, and Alan also jumped at the chance to return. They have been with the players a fortnight now, and have seen them in match action twice as well as in four training sessions.

"Martin Gray has built an amazing set of lads, who are good and honest. This is what should be a play off squad. Alan and I will put our stamp on it, but I want to do one better than what was achieved last season, and that is to win the play offs.

"I think the players know what I want. As a player, I gave it everything and I want a high tempo attacking brand of football, and I'll enjoy working with them.

"I've watched a lot of the games that we've played this season – as well as being in the other technical area at Nuneaton a few weeks ago – and I've got a fair idea of what people can do. I'm going to really get my teeth into it.

"I want to get this club back in the Football League. I won trophies as a player, and I want to take this club back to where it belongs. I can't think of anything I'd rather do.

"The support that I've had from supporters, players, everyone has been immense. If I can take the club forward, then I'll be delighted."

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No previous experience is required but this is a role that will require somebody with real enthusiasm and energy. It will give you the opportunity to closely interact with DFC players on a matchday and get involved with the popular DFC matchday community programme. You will need to be available for first team Saturday home games.

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HOW THE OTHERS ARE DOING

Chris Sykes

Salford City moved top of the division with a 1-0 win at Boston in midweek. Anthony Dudley's goal on the half hour mark made it three straight wins for the Ammies, moving them a point clear of Harrogate Town.

The Yorkshire side are seven games unbeaten in the league, although they did drop points in draws against Bradford PA and Leamington.

Those two sides have moved clear of the chasing pack, who are headed up by Blyth Spartans. 70 goals have been scored in league matches involving Spartans, an average of more than four a game.

Today's visitors Brackley, who are just a point behind Blyth, come into the game after back-to-back victories. That ended a streak of six winless league games.

Last season's other promoted NPL side, Spennymoor, have, like Blyth, enjoyed a successful start to life at Step 2 level. Moors are a point behind Brackley after losing only one of their last six.

Chorley stayed sixth and inside the play-off places after a 1-1 draw with Tamworth on Tuesday.

That draw also kept the Lambs in the top seven, with Tamworth's 3-2 win at York on Saturday ending a run of three losses in a row.

Curzon Ashton slipped out of the play-off places after a surprise 1-0 defeat to struggling Gainsborough last weekend.

Since changing managers, York City have dropped to ninth in the league, with just one win in their last five.

10th-placed Kidderminster Harriers have quietly made ground on the top seven after losing only one of their last eight in the league.

AFC Telford, who travel to Hereford FC in the FA Cup today, are only two points off the play-off places.

Stockport County's play-off push has drifted somewhat in recent weeks, with four defeats in their last seven seeing the Hatters drop to 12th in the table.

After going five games unbeaten, Alfreton had hoped to mount an assault on the top seven. But with three defeats in four matches, they've dropped back into the bottom half.

It's a similar story for Bradford PA, who have taken only two points from five matches to slip away from play-off contention.

Leamington are the division's most-improved side of recent weeks. Their goalless draw at Blackwell Meadows in September was the catalyst for a seven-game unbeaten run, which has taken the Midlands side five points clear of the relegation zone.

They're now above Southport on goal difference, with the Sandgrounders failing to win any of their last eight league games. Southport have won only once in the league since August, with that victory coming against Darlington in early September.

Just a point further back are Gainsborough Trinity, who created some breathing space between themselves and the drop zone with victory over Curzon Ashton last week. They host Southern Premier League side Slough in the FA Cup.

Nuneaton Town have lost both matches since Tommy Wright's departure, leaving them only a point and a place above the relegation places.

FC United, who are in the bottom three, are a point behind Nuneaton but with a game in hand. They've also lost one of their last four matches, and beat Nuneaton in the league last week.

Tuesday's defeat to Salford means Boston have taken only one point from seven league matches, leaving them three points from safety.

And North Ferriby continue to sit bottom of the division, and already look well adrift. They're nine points from safety, with just one win all competitions all season.

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THE EX FACTOR

Craig Stoddart and Ray Simpson have been keeping an eye on the activities of former Darlo players.

SCOTT FENWICK

Scott Fenwick, who made four sub appearances for us at the start of the season, is amongst the goals for Naxxar Lions in the Maltese Premier League.

Fenwick was non-contract with Quakers, and left in September for sunnier climes in the Mediterranean. He told the Hartlepool Mail: "Football is a funny old game and I've signed for two years at Naxxar Lions - a new challenge, a fresh start with a different culture of how football is played.

"It's a lot different to England but I've hit the ground running and I am really enjoying my new lifestyle, I'm happy and enjoying my football which is the most important thing. Playing in the heat is madness, one game kicked off at 5pm UK time and it was 33C, I felt like someone was strangling me during the game, mind, my tan is looking good!

"I am having lessons in both Maltese and Spanish and there's a very British culture left behind here from the second world war.

"I'm playing in the top league in Malta with the top three teams and the cup winners qualifying for the qualifiers of the Champions League and the Europa league.

"The structure of everything over here is exactly like England, however the tempo and style of play is a lot different due to the heat and technicality of the game. We do double sessions most days whereas in England I was used to only training once a day.

"If you asked me six weeks ago if I thought I would be playing in the Maltese Premier League, in the sun and trying to qualify for Europe I would have laughed. Football is a crazy game and constantly changing, I'm glad I came out here, who knows where I'll end up next!"

Curtis Edwards continues to make an impact in the Europa League for Ostersunds. He scored one of their goals in the 2-2 draw with Athletic Bilbao on 19th October, which put them top of their group. Edwards, who played several games for us in our first EvoStik League season, has been a regular in the Ostersunds side as the unfancied Swedes have taken Europe by storm.

Tom Davie ruined Kevin Davies' first game in charge of Southport a fortnight ago. Davie, who played four games for us, scored the opening goal of the game for Gainsborough in the 2-2 draw.

Ryan Bowman has reached the Scottish League Cup final with Motherwell after they beat Rangers in their semi final, and they will now play Celtic in the final. However, Bowman was at the centre of controversy after he was yellow carded following a clash with Rangers' defender Fabio Cardoso, which left the Rangers player with a broken nose. Motherwell will play Celtic in the final on 26th November.

David Ferguson has been called into the England c squad for the International Challenge Trophy final later this month, along with another former Darlo player **Andrew Cartwright**, who is now at Blyth.

Liam Hardy continued his good scoring form in the EvoStik League by scoring twice for Buxton in their 5-2 away win at Coalville on 21st October, taking him to 13 league goals for the season.

Exodus Geohaghon was sent off in Nuneaton's 3-1 home defeat by Stockport on 21st October.

John Campbell, who is now at Whitby, scored both of their goals in the 2-2 home draw with Hednesford on 21st October

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PICTURE FROM THE PAST

Tommy Wright takes his place today in the Blackwell Meadows dug-out for the first time as Darlington manager – ten years since joining the club as a striker.

He made an instant impact by scoring an 86th minute equaliser in a 1-1 midweek draw at Bury on his debut - the same day he joined on loan from Barnsley - and four days later played in a 1-0 win at Grimsby Town.

Wright finally made his first appearance at the Arena on January 27th, 2007, the game ending 1-1 and he was on target again, this time scoring a penalty.

He is pictured competing with Wrexham's Ryan Valentine, who would later become one of Wright's team-mates.

TOMMY WRIGHT AND ALAN WHITE ARE WELCOMED BACK TO THE CLUB BY DIRECTOR JOHN TEMPEST.

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Quizmaster Steve Rees has put together another half time quiz.

STEVE'S HALF-TIME Quiz

FIRST HALF - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Gwen Stefani started out as vocalist for which 90s group?
2. What did Oscar Wilde describe as "the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable"?
3. Which two countries are linked by the Simplon rail tunnel under the Alps?
4. In which US city did the first MacDonald's open in 1954?
5. Played by Billy Connolly in a 1997 film, who was the servant and confidant of Queen Victoria?
6. Who are the two feuding families in Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet?
7. What is the favourite food of Paddington Bear?
8. Which cocktail is a mixture of champagne and stout, usually Guinness?
9. Who was shot from behind by Bob Ford in 1882?
10. Whose musical works were almost all performed originally at the Savoy Theatre?
11. What are the two main ingredients of the cocktail known as a "screwdriver"?

SECOND HALF – SPORT

12. Which team in the British first-class leagues has the longest name?
13. What is unique about Brentford's ground, Griffin Park?
14. Which is the only club to have played in the Premiership, all the old Divisions 1 to 4 and Div 3 North & South?
15. Name the ex-Aberdeen striker who appeared twice during Top of the Pops on the same night in 1982.
16. Which Football League club is situated furthest east in the country?
17. In which athletics' event did Kelly Sotherton win Olympic bronze in Athens?
18. Which country did former England cricket coach Duncan Fletcher once captain?
19. In Olympic boxing which weight comes between Bantamweight and Lightweight?
20. Which Rugby League team play their home fixtures at The Jungle?
21. Who was the regular presenter of BBC's Question of Sport prior to Sue Barker?
22. In which sport did Frenchman Jean-Claude Killy win Olympic gold?

HOW DID YOU DO?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49

POINTS SCORED

22 - 17	Well done! You're a born scorer and a real fox in the box
16 - 11	Flashes of brilliance on the ball but you lack consistency
10 - 6	Average performance – more work needed on the training ground
5 or less	Little awareness of football or, indeed, life in general. Have you considered a job at the FA?

by Simon Weatherill

Memory Match

Simon Weatherill remembers a classic away win at Hartlepool on 11th November 1995 in this week's Memory Match.

The 1995/96 season promised to be an exciting time for Darlington fans. The club had just appointed David Hodgson and Jim Platt as their "dream team" management duo. One of their first jobs was to sell Adam Reed to Blackburn Rovers in order to balance the books, and to lift a transfer embargo, which the club found itself under. They then set about reshaping the squad for the coming campaign. One of their first signings was Gary Bannister, who joined the club as player coach. They also signed Phil Brumwell, Mark Barnard and Anthony Carss. Hodgson had previously worked as a football agent and he used his contacts to bring in trialists from far and wide. The club kicked off the new season with two Portuguese players in the squad – Pedro Paulo and Rui Neves.

The team didn't make the anticipated start to the season and only won one of their first ten games, which left them third from bottom in the table at the end of September. Hodgson even put the whole team up for sale after one particularly poor performance at home to Scarborough. October proved to be a good month though with five straight wins that moved the club up into the play-off positions. With their league campaign now firmly back on track, the Quakers could turn their attention to the FA Cup. When the draw for the first round was made Darlington had been paired with local rivals Hartlepool. The game would take place at Victoria Park on November 11th. The clubs had been drawn together six times in the FA Cup and at that moment they were honours even, with three wins each. The latest encounter would enable the winners to have bragging rights over their near neighbours.

Darlington's recent good form had lifted them to 7th place in the table with 25 points from their 16 games. Hartlepool weren't having such a good time and sat in 19th place with 18 points, but had a good home record, being unbeaten in eight home games, winning three and drawing five, so a tight, hard fought game was in prospect. The Quakers were forced into making two changes from their team for the match. Left back Mark Barnard was cup tied, having already played in an early qualifying round for Worksop Town. His place went to Phil Brumwell. Striker Glenn Naylor had spent a month on loan with the club from York City. He had returned to York and would be replaced in the team by Steve Gaughan.

On a wet and windy, miserable afternoon, a crowd of 3834 were at Victoria Park for the FA Cup showdown. They saw the home side make the better start, and have the Quakers on the back foot early on. Ex Darlington player Mick Tait should have opened the scoring in the 8th minute when Mike Pollitt failed to collect a cross, and Tait chipped wide of the empty net from 20 yards out. A minute later Stephen Halliday burst between two defenders but fired his shot straight at Pollitt. Pools got the lead that their early play deserved in the 13th minute. A neat flicked ball forward by Halliday found Scott Sloan on the edge of the box and he superbly volleyed first time into the top right hand corner. They very nearly increased their lead two minutes later when a good run by Halliday finished with a thumping drive just wide of the post. Darlington began to find their feet on the difficult surface and equalised on 25 minutes. Steve Gaughan beat the offside trap and raced clear down the right before squaring the ball to the far post where Phil Brumwell slid in and fired the ball home. The Quakers were well on top now and took the lead with an almost carbon copy goal in the 37th minute. This time it was Paul

Olsson who made progress down the right, hurdling a challenge from full back Ian McGuckin and crossing to the far post where Gaughan forced the ball home with a close range header, to make the half time score, Hartlepool 1 Darlington 2.

Darlington began the second half as they had finished the first – in total control. They increased their lead in the 59th minute when Gaughan put Robbie Painter through on goal, but Pools keeper Brian Horne made a good save at the striker's feet. He couldn't hold the ball though, which ran loose back to Gaughan, who squared the rebound to Gary Bannister, and he lashed the ball into the roof of the net from near the penalty spot. They kept pressing forward and made the game safe five minutes later when Mattie Appleby played a great ball down the right to Painter, who this time made no mistake, cutting inside and drilling home from the corner of the box.

At 4-1 in front the Quakers eased off and allowed Pools back into the game. Halliday scored a well taken goal on 75 minutes, although he looked suspiciously offside when he cut in from the left and fired home off the body of Pollitt. In a spirited finish Pools went close again when Pollitt saved superbly from Sloan and in the ensuing goalmouth scramble Simon Shaw seemed to handle the ball but somehow escaped conceding a penalty. The Quakers had started slowly and finished sloppily but in between they had been devastating and fully deserved their 4-2 win.

The game proved to be Mike Pollitt's last in a Darlington shirt. Immediately after the game he was sold to Notts County, which lead shortly afterwards to the resignation of David Hodgson, who claimed the transfer was completed behind his back, and he left the club, saying that he was sick of the internal politics and that he'd been misled about the club's financial position.

Hartlepool produced a 32 page programme for the 95/96 season, priced at £1.30. The programme included two pages of pen pics of Quakers players, a page of "stats and facts" of the season so far, and ten "interesting facts" about the two clubs and their rivalry.

Team v Hartlepool : 1 Mike Pollitt 2 Simon Shaw 3 Phil Brumwell 4 Mattie Appleby 5 Andy Crosby 6 Sean Gregan 7 Gary Himsworth 8 Paul Olsson 9 Robbie Painter 10 Steve Gaughan 11 Gary Bannister Subs 12 Gavin Worboys (not used) 13 Paul Robinson (replaced Gaughan, 80 mins) 14 Anthony Carss (not used).

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Darlington Youth

Finn Lumley with the FC Porto coaches

Three lads from our youth set up recently spent a week training at FC Porto.

Graeme Lumley, the father of Fynn Lumley, travelled with the party, and wrote:

Darlington FC players Fynn Lumley (goalkeeper u13), Milo Harris (forward u13) and Kieran Dixon (midfielder u14) all spent the half term week training at the Youth Academy of FC Porto, in Portugal.

The first two days' training were spent at Vitalis Park, in the heart of the city of Porto. Once the original home stadium, the location is now the Youth Academy base and enjoys two 3G pitches, one partially covered to provide shade. Each day the boys were given lunch in the Academy canteen before being issued with fresh FC Porto training kit and heading out onto the pitches.

For the first two days Fynn was fortunate enough to be keeper training on his own, with three Academy keeper coaches for company. Interestingly they spent much of the time working with ball into his feet, and when I spoke with Thiago (one of the keeper coaches) he said it was most important that Fynn could play football and not just make saves. Several drills were focussed around passing fast balls into him and closing him down quickly so that he had to control, open out and pass to the opposite side under pressure. They also spent some time showing him how to "chop" his kicks from his hands so that the ball travelled flatter and further (rather than the traditional up and under keeper kicks).

The outfield players also had 4 coaches drilling them in u14 and u16 groups - the focus being very much on ball possession, touch, and passing. The speed and intensity of the drills, particularly in the 27degree heat was high. Again, they were very keen to instil a real sense of pace and quality to the boys passing - giving the ball away cheaply, or making a poor quality pass was really discouraged, but above all the coaches were incredibly supportive and positive in their coaching style.

We then spent 2 days training at FC Fao, which is a local 3rd division side who act as a feeder academy for FC Porto. The same coaches joined us there and again the training, preparation and professionalism was first class, with top quality 3G semi-grass surfaces, lunches, and kit all laid on. We also played 2 competitive matches at FC Fao, the first night game being Polam u13's against Dragon Force (FC Porto's academy) u12's and lost a close fought 2-1. This was followed by an even later 20:30 KO u16 game, where FC Fao Academy ran out 6-0 winners.

During the week we were invited as guests to an FC Porto home match, at Estadio do Dragao, where they drew 0-0 with local rivals and 2nd tier leaders Leixoes in the Taca da Liga (League Cup).

Finally, on our last day we returned to Estadio do Dragao for lunch with the coaching staff in one of the executive boxes, followed by medal presentations to all the boys, a back stage tour of the stadium and visit to the FC Porto museum, quite possibly the best museum I've ever been to... An obligatory trip to the club shop saw all the lads shell out for FC Porto tops and we headed back to England. I think everyone took something from the week and the FC Porto coaches were really keen to understand how our coaching in the UK differed from theirs. I think we might have a Darlington 'FC Porto' supporters club in the making!!

Six year old Tobias Slade, who has been popping the goals in for the Under 7s, recently had a trial at Newcastle United, and played in a tournament for them.

Tobias Slade in front of the Newcastle badge

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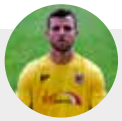

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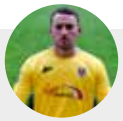

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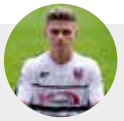

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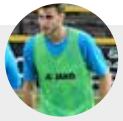

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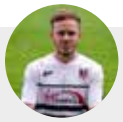

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DFCSG notes

>> BY NEIL RAPER

Good afternoon and a warm welcome to Blackwell Meadows to everyone connected with Brackley Town, our furthest away visitors of the season. We wish everyone a safe and swift journey back. With Brackley sitting 4th in the table with only two defeats, it signifies another tough game for the Quakers.

It has been a very busy couple of weeks for DFCSG. We are still coming to terms with the very sad loss of Paul Tate. Although based some 2,300 miles away in Tbilisi, Paul was an integral part of our team and he made a massive contribution to the progress of DFCSG by creating, operating and maintaining our website. We were in daily contact with Paul, even on the day of his passing. Our thoughts continue to be with Paul's widow Lana and his step-son Georgi. Paul's funeral was last Tuesday and DFCSG managed to send a signed shirt and a programme from the Bradford Park Avenue match across with John, Paul's brother, for Georgi who is an avid Darlo fan.

New Management Team

Since our programme notes, Darlington FC appointed a new management team and Darlington FC Supporters Group welcomes the arrival of Tommy Wright, with Alan White as his assistant. They have both served the club in the past with distinction. Tommy impressed the interview panel with his vision and passion for Darlington Football Club, alongside his knowledge and respect of our ownership structure. We look forward to developing a constructive working relationship with both Tommy and Alan.

Unfortunately, the outcome of their first match in charge at Blyth didn't quite go to plan particularly after such a commanding first half performance. Who knows what would have happened if Dom Collins hadn't been forced off at half time following a robust challenge.

Raise the Roof!

Darlington FC Fans & Supporter Group Members have over the last six months raised

an incredible £140,000+ towards improving Blackwell Meadows infrastructure and boosting the playing budget. We have one last hurdle to overcome to get the ground ready to be eligible for promotion to the National League – a roof to cover the new seated stand.

We need £50,000 by December 31st. This will allow enough lead time to order materials and erect the roof to beat the FA's March 31st deadline for ground grading standards.

Recent events off the pitch haven't changed the focus of our players. The first question to DFC directors, from Leon Scott, after the departure of our previous manager was to ask if the fans and the board would still have the ground ready for the playoffs. With the new management team in place we're now ready to kick-on towards the target of reaching the play-offs. Let's raise the roof and do our part to give the players the opportunity they were denied last season.

How can you help? You have three choices with various benefits and investment amounts:

- Community Shares (from £100) (£30K target). Our popular community share scheme, where you can choose to receive interest on your investment & have the option to have your capital repaid as well (minimum 5 year investment period).

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Durham / Newcastle	0191 4661162
Hartlepool	01429 555005
Middlesbrough / Stockton	01642 686011

DFCSG *notes* CONTINUED

- Ground Development Fund (£10K target) is perfect for smaller amounts (£10-£99) and is on a donation basis with no return. This fund also includes offline donations raised via buckets on matchdays and from people donating their 50/50 or Lottery winnings.
- Sponsor Your Seat (£50) (£10K target). Get your own personalised nameplate on a seat, in the existing stand or soon to be installed sister stand. It'll also guarantee your seat for cup games.

Further details of these options can be found in the associated pitches at http://fundraising.darlingtonfcsupportersgroup.org/

The good news is that we're making good progress and at the time of writing we had raised over £18,000, meaning we're 36% of the way towards our target. Thank you all so much for your support.

DFCSG AGM – Thursday 16th November

By now, every DFCSG member should have received notification of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting either by email or by post. If you are a member and haven't received details, please contact our membership secretary, Dave O'Neill.

A combination of circumstances dictated by the formal rules of DFCSG and also by personal decisions, there are seven vacancies to fill on the board of twelve directors. By the closing date of 24th October, we had received 11 nominations and a consequence there will be a ballot at the AGM. The personal statements of the nominees have been circulated around members with email and also been placed on deposit for viewing at Quaker Retail. As a result, there have been a number of very positive comments made in social media about the quality of the candidates that have stepped forward, which is great testament as to the great strides DFCSG has made since its coming together in February 2015.

One of those that will be stepping down at the AGM is our Interim Chair, Joanne Cameron and the remaining DFCSG board members would like to place on record our sincere thanks to Joanne for stepping into the breach and for the admirable way that she has led us. I doubt very much that when Joanne stepped up from being Deputy Chair that she ever envisaged being on the interview panel for a new manager for Darlington FC! The good news is that we're not losing Joanne totally, she will be continuing in her role as Hospitality Manager for Darlington FC.

If you are unable to attend the AGM then you may nominate a proxy in your stead. You can either nominate a friend who is attending or alternatively you can request the Chair to act on your behalf. You may direct your proxy to vote a particular way for each occasion, or alternatively you may put your trust in the judgment of your proxy. If you wish to nominate a proxy please notify membership@darlingtonfc.org with the details by Tuesday 14th November at the latest.

Away Travel

DFCSG is running coaches to all away matches. The coaches leave from Park Place, Darlington and arrive at their destination around 90 minutes before kick-off.

Our next scheduled away trips are to Kidderminster Harriers on Saturday 11 November, departing at 10am and to Gainsborough Trinity on Saturday 23 December, departing at 11am, although there may be intervening away trips on 25 November and 6 December, depending on the draws and our subsequent progress in the FA Trophy. The fare to Kidderminster and to Gainsborough is £20 but there will be a discount of £5 for anyone under 16 years of age accompanied by a responsible adult.

To book a seat ring Glen on 07376 368553.

Details for coaches to home and away match can be found on the DFCSG website.

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REMINDER OF DARLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB'S

GROUND REGULATIONS

In home games last season, there were incidents involving a flare, some coin throwing and fans encroaching on to the field of play. Accordingly, we have been requested to remind fans about our ground regulations.

These regrettable incidents are contrary to our ground regulations, as published on our official website on 12th October last year, and again last week.

The pertinent regulations are as follows:

"The following articles must not be brought within the Ground – knives, fireworks or any other pyrotechnics, smoke canisters, air-horns, flares, weapons, dangerous or hazardous items, laser devices, glass bottles, glass vessels, cans, poles, any articles that are prohibited by the Rules and Regulations, and any article that might be used as a weapon and/or compromise public safety. Any person in possession of such items will be refused entry to (or ejected from) the Ground."

And

"Under the Football (Offences) Act 1991 (as amended) the following are offences for which a person can be arrested by a police officer and conviction could result in a Banning Order being made under the Football Spectators Act 1989 (as amended): The list is non-exhaustive.

"The throwing of any object within the Ground without lawful authority or excuse;

"The entry onto the playing area or any adjacent area to which spectators are not generally admitted without lawful authority or excuse."

We should be very clear. Those responsible for such incidents simply do not care about our club, our reputation or the safety of our fans and we do not want them at our matches. The club will work with the stewards and police to ensure that these matters are addressed and the individuals will be banned from future matches.

Ensuring the safety of our supporters and staff is always of paramount importance to Darlington FC 1883. If such behaviour was to continue, the reality is it would only be a matter of time before serious injury is caused and the club in turn would be punished by the league and/or the FA. We will not allow safety to be compromised of the well-behaved and sensible majority by the actions of a tiny minority.

We would also like to draw attention to the possession of pyrotechnics

As a member Club participating in The National League we have been directed to take the strongest action available against anyone found in possession of a Flare, Smoke Bomb or any other such pyrotechnic article(s).

Spectators are warned that we and The National League apply a zero tolerance approach to anyone attempting to bring such article(s) into our Ground/ Stadium.

Due to their chemical make-up, a Flare, Smoke Bomb and all such pyrotechnic article(s) can be highly toxic for some people. This can lead to serious health consequences for those with pre-existing medical conditions and may in certain circumstances cause life-threatening injury or concern.

In order to protect you, the spectator, we reserve the right to search your person and/or effects and we further reserve the right to pursue legal action, civil or criminal, against any person who contravenes current legislation or our Ground/ Stadium regulations.

To further safeguard all who attend any event at this Ground/ Stadium, we welcome the receipt of any information which will assist us to deter, apprehend/detain and where appropriate prosecute, anyone in possession of; or found discharging or being a party to the discharge of, such an article(s).

Please e mail this information in confidence to dave.watson@darlingtonfc.org

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Hi everyone and welcome to our game against Brackley Town today. A repeat of our last home result would be excellent. Come on Darlo!

Welcome

Well there's a lot happened at the club since I wrote my last programme notes. All of us at Quaker Retail would like to welcome our new management team of Tommy Wright and Alan White and we hope that they can take the club up the league and treat us to a good run in the FA Trophy – now wouldn't that be nice! Thanks also must go to Gary Brown and Phil Turnbull who did a great job steadying the ship at a difficult time and we were all delighted that they managed a win in their last game in charge. Well done boys!

Quaker Retail Shop

As you know we usually open our shop for some extra hours on the run up to Christmas. I think I'm allowed to mention the "C" word now as all of the shops seem to have their Christmas stock out! Here are some dates to keep in mind when you are doing your Christmas shopping:-

Monday to Friday every week 10am – 1pm in the Dolphin Centre.

Thursday evening 23rd November 4.30pm – 7.00pm to coincide with the Christmas Lights switch on.

Sunday 26th November, 3rd December, 10th December, 17th December 11.00am – 2pm in the Dolphin Centre.

Home matches before Christmas at our shop in the main bar.

18th November v Tamworth 9th December v Salford City

25th November FA Trophy could be home or away

If you are ordering gifts of clothing from us as a Christmas Gift please order early so that you won't be disappointed. If we don't have your size in stock there are different ways to order. You can order online and have your goods posted or order at the Dolphin Centre shop and pick up there. You can also order at the shop at the match and have it sent to you or pick up either at the match or the Dolphin Centre.

Pens

A lovely gift for a special occasion are our handmade pens, created by Andrew Simmons. We have three designs available: a wood-barrelled pen at £25 and another variety which has a black and white swirl design on the barrel priced at £18. These would make a great birthday or Christmas gifts. All of the pens use parker refills.

We also have our very popular £1 pens in black or white inscribed with Darlington FC.

Footballs

Kids love to be out and about playing football so why not come and have a look at our footballs. Priced competitively at £10 they display the Darlo crest and also have space for player autographs if you want the football as a keepsake.

Mugs

You can never have too many mugs and we have three designs for our mug. One has the Darlington Crest at each side of the handle another also has the crests but the word "Darlo" is written vertically between the two crests. These cost £6.

Our brand new mug has a crest on one side and you can have a picture of your favourite player on the other side. This one shows our very own Chris Hunter who we hope gets well soon. These will be to order and cost £7.

The mugs aren't dishwasher proof so have to be washed by hand please.

Christmas Specials

In the run up to Christmas, we're highlighting some of our lines on the club's official website – so if you're stuck for Christmas present ideas, we might be able to help!

Well that's all from me this week. Hope to see you at one of our shops either at the Dolphin Centre or at the match or on our online shop. See you all again soon.

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We wish Darlington every success for the 2016/17 season.

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On This Day

In this series, we look back at matches on or around the corresponding day in the club's history.

October 30th 1965

Division Four

Darlington 4 Aldershot 3, attendance 5651

We were building up momentum for a promotion push ahead of this game, having won three and drawn one of our previous four games.

We'd just signed Bobby Cummings from Newcastle with the money from the sale of Tommy Lawton to Swindon, and Cummings had already scored five times before this game.

He wasn't to let the crowd down, scoring again in this win, with Eddie Johnstone (2) and Alan Sproates also on target as Aldershot pushed us all the way.

Four days later, we went to First Division Ipswich and gave them a run for their money before losing 2-0 in the Football League Cup.

Team: Moor, Peverell, Keeble, Yeoman, Greener, Jacques, Hopper, Johnstone, Cummings, Sproates, McGeachie.

November 3rd 1987

Division Four

Darlington 1 Crewe Alexandra 0, attendance 1729

We'd been relegated from the old Third Division the season before, and were consolidating in Division Four. In our previous home game, we'd drawn 2-2 with Wolves, but then lost the next match at Colchester.

Gary Worthington was our matchwinner to give us the three points, and keep us on course for a midtable finish.

GARY CHAPMAN

J Roberts, Outterside, Morgan, Hine, Robinson, Bonnyman, Bell, Currie, Stonehouse, Worthington. Sub A Roberts

November 2nd 1993

Division Three

Darlington 7 Colchester United 3, attendance 1844

This was one of the most remarkable nights in Quakers' history. After opening the season without a win in 13 league games which saw the resignation of manager Billy McEwan, we thumped Colchester at Feethams. We'd only scored seven league goals all season until this game!

It's fair to say that nobody could believe what they saw, as Quakers ran rampant, although we were a little shaky at the other end, hence prompting new manager Alan Murray to say; "I only felt comfortable when we were four goals ahead."

Lee Ellison (2), Robbie Painter (2), Gary Chapman (2) and Gary Himsworth were the scorers, the pick of the goals being a diving header by Chapman near the end.

Team: Collier, Reed, Pearson, Isaacs, Sunley, Gregan, Kirkham, Himsworth, Chapman, Ellison, Painter. Subs Ball, Shaw

Thanks to club historian Frank Tweddle for his help in putting this series together.

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OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS TOOK SOME IMAGES OF OUR FANS AT BLYTH LAST SATURDAY -- SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT YOURSELF!

QUIZMASTER ANSWERS (Page 31)

FIRST HALF – GENERAL KNOWLEDGE 1. No Doubt 2. Foxhunting 3. Switzerland & Italy 4. Chicago 5. John Brown 6. Montagues & Capulets 7. Marmalade sandwiches 8. Black Velvet 9. Jesse James 10. Gilbert & Sullivan 11. Vodka & orange juice

SECOND HALF -SPORT 12. Inverness Caledonian Thistle 13. There's a pub on each corner of the ground 14. Coventry City 15. Steve Archibald 16. Norwich City 17. Heptathlon 18. Zimbabwe 19. Featherweight 20. Castleford Tigers 21. David Coleman 22. Skiing

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Season's Stats

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH 2017-18

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
1	**Salford City**	**16**	**12**	**2**	**2**	**28**	**13**	**38**	**+15**
2	Harrogate Town	16	11	4	1	42	17	37	+25
3	Blyth Spartans	16	10	0	6	41	29	30	+12
4	Brackley	15	8	5	2	26	13	29	+13
5	Spennymoor Town	16	8	4	4	31	22	28	+9
6	Chorley	16	7	4	5	18	15	25	+3
7	Tamworth	16	7	3	6	26	25	24	+1
8	Curzon Ashton	17	6	5	6	22	27	23	-5
9	York City	16	6	4	6	27	23	22	+4
10	Kidderminster	15	6	4	5	23	22	22	+1
11	AFC Telford United	16	7	1	8	24	28	22	-4
12	Stockport County	16	6	3	7	29	23	21	+6
13	**Darlington**	**17**	**5**	**6**	**6**	**22**	**22**	**21**	**0**
14	Alfreton Town	15	6	2	7	25	24	20	+1
15	Bradford PA	16	5	5	6	20	21	20	-1
16	Leamington	16	5	4	7	22	28	19	-6
17	Southport	15	5	4	6	20	28	19	-8
18	Gainsborough Trinity	16	5	3	8	24	31	18	-7
19	Nuneaton Town	16	4	3	9	22	31	15	-9
20	FC United	15	4	2	9	21	29	14	-8
21	Boston United	16	3	3	10	19	31	12	-12
22	North Ferriby	15	1	3	11	7	37	6	-30

DARLO APPEARANCES & GOALS 2017-18

	League start	League sub	Cups start	Cups subs	League goals	Cup goals	Career League	Career Lgue sub	Career Cups start	Career Cups sub	Career Lgue goals	Career Cup goals
Adam Bartlett	16	0	1	0	0	0	24	0	1	0	0	0
Mark Bell	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	2	5	0	0	0
Mark Beck	12	0	1	0	1	0	53	0	3	1	19	0
Gary Brown	5	0	0	0	1	0	157	3	11	0	17	2
Kevin Burgess	3	2	1	0	0	0	72	4	3	0	15	0
Nathan Cartman	7	1	0	0	1	0	85	28	5	1	34	2
James Caton	9	4	1	0	1	0	9	4	1	0	1	0
Dominic Collins	17	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Adam Dawson	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Scott Fenwick	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
David Ferguson	13	0	1	0	4	0	29	1	1	0	5	0
Terry Galbraith	16	0	1	0	2	0	183	14	15	1	54	2
Josh Gillies	16	0	1	0	5	0	45	8	3	0	15	0
Chris Hunter	6	0	0	0	0	0	137	6	16	1	0	0
Liam Marrs	9	1	1	0	0	0	38	3	4	0	0	0
Tom Portas	7	3	0	0	0	0	85	17	7	0	9	0
Harvey Saunders	2	12	0	0	1	0	2	23	0	0	3	0
Leon Scott	5	7	0	0	0	0	160	36	14	1	20	0
David Syers	10	3	1	0	3	0	29	12	2	1	12	0
Stephen Thompson	11	3	0	0	0	0	205	12	14	3	68	6
Phil Turnbull	17	0	1	0	0	0	97	1	3	1	1	0
Jack Vaulks	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Joe Wheatley	3	4	1	0	1	0	3	4	1	0	1	0
Ed Wilczynski	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
own goals	0	0	0	0	1	0						

FIXTURES & RESULTS 2017/18

WIN DRAW LOSE

2017			VERSUS		R	S	ATT																
Sat	Aug	5th	Salford	A	3.00	2-0	1777	Bartlett	Hunter	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Brown	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Caton	**Ferg'n 2**	Scott	Saund's	Marrs	Fen'ick	Wil'ski
Wed	Aug	9th	Gainsborough Trinity	H	7.45	4-3	1682	Bartlett	Hunter	**Galb'th**	Turnbull	Collins	Brown	**Gillies**	**Syers**	**Beck**	Caton	Ferg'n	Scott	Saund's	Fen'ick	Wil'ski	Thomp'n
Sat	Aug	12th	Alfreton	H	3.00	4-1	1547	Bartlett	Hunter	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Brown	**Gillies2**	Syers	Beck	**Caton**	**Ferg'n**	Scott	Fen'ick	Thomp'n	Wil'ski	Saund's
Tues	Aug	15th	York City	A	7.45	0-0	3944	Bartlett	Hunter	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Brown	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Caton	Ferg'n	Scott	Thomp'n	Saund's	Wil'ski	Fen'ick
Sat	Aug	19th	AFC Telford United	H	3.00	0-1	1532	Bartlett	Hunter	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Thomp'n	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Caton	Ferg'n	Fen'ick	Scott	Saund's	Wil'ski	Fen'ick
Sat	Aug	26th	North Ferriby	A	3.00	1-1	479	Wil'ski	Hunter	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Thomp'n	**Gillies**	Portas	Beck	Caton	Ferg'n	Marrs	Wheat'y	Saund's	Fen'ick	Bell
Mon	Aug	28th	Spennymoor Town	H	7.45	1-1	2070	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	**Brown**	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Thomp'n	Ferg'n	Fen'ick	Portas	Caton	Wheat'y	Wil'ski
Sat	Sept	2nd	Southport	A	3.00	0-2	1059	Bartlett	Burgess	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Thomp'n	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Caton	Ferg'n	Vaulks	Portas	Saund's	Scott	Wil'ski
Tues	Sept	5th	Chorley	A	7.45	1-4	1011	Bartlett	Marrs	Burgess	Turnbull	Collins	Thomp'n	Gillies	Portas	Beck	Scott	Ferg'n	Syers	**Saund's**	Caton	Wil'ski	Vaulks
Sat	Sept	9th	Leamington	H	3.00	0-0	1277	Bartlett	Portas	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Cartman	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Caton	Ferg'n	Scott	Vaulks	Saund's	Thomp'n	Wil'ski
Wed	Sept	13th	FC United of Manchester	H	7.45	3-0	1178	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Burgess	Gillies	**Wheat'y**	Beck	**Cartm'n**	**Ferg'n**	Vaulks	Syers	Thomp'n	Wil'ski	Saund's
Sat	Sept	16th	South Shields, FA Cup 2Q	H	3.00	0-3	1814	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Burgess	Wheat'y	Gillies	Syers	Beck	Caton	Ferg'n	Thomp'n	Scott	Saund's	Wil'ski	Vaulks
Sat	Sept	23rd	Boston United	A	3.00	1-1	1051	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Wheat'y	Dawson	**Thomp'n**	Cartman	Caton	Ferg'n	Scott	Saund's	Vaulks	Wil'ski	Gillies
Sat	Sept	30th	Curzon Ashton	A	3.00	0-1	292	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Wheat'y	Gillies	Dawson	Beck	Thomp'n	Ferg'n	Saund's	Portas	Cartman	Wil'ski	
Sat	Oct	7th	Stockport County	H	3.00	1-1	1758	Bartlett	Marrs	**Galb'th**	Turnbull	Collins	Scott	Gillies	Portas	Cartman	Thomp'n	Saund's	Dawson	Wheat'y	Wil'ski	Vaulks	Syers
Sat	Oct	14th	Nuneaton Town	A	3.00	1-2	764	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Scott	Gillies	Portas	Cartman	Thomp'n	Saund's	Burgess	Wheat'y	**Syers**	Wil'ski	Dawson
Sat	Oct	21st	Bradford Park Avenue	H	3.00	2-1	1312	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Scott	**Gillies**	Portas	Cartman	Thomp'n	Syers	Wheat'y	Saund's	Caton	Wil'ski	Burgess
Sat	Oct	28th	Blyth Spartans	A	3.00	1-3	1554	Bartlett	Marrs	Galb'th	Turnbull	Collins	Scott	Gillies	Portas	Cartman	Thomp'n	Syers	Burgess	Caton	Saund's	Wil'ski	Wheat'y
Sat	Nov	4th	Brackley Town	H																			
Sat	Nov	11th	Kidderminster Harriers	A																			
Sat	Nov	18th	Tamworth	H																			
Sat	Nov	25th	FA Trophy 3q																				
Sat	Dec	9th	Salford City	H																			
Sat	Dec	16th	FA Trophy 1R																				
Sat	Dec	23rd	Gainsborough Trinity	A																			
Tues	Dec	26th	Harrogate Town	H																			
Mon	Jan	1st	Harrogate Town	A																			
Sat	Jan	6th	York City	H																			
Sat	Jan	13th	Alfreton (also FA Trophy 2r)	A																			
Sat	Jan	20th	Chorley	H																			
Sat	Jan	27th	Leamington	A																			
Sat	Feb	3rd	Blyth Spartans (also FA Trophy 3r)	H																			
Sat	Feb	10th	Bradford Park Avenue	A																			
Sat	Feb	17th	Brackley	A																			
Sat	Feb	24th	Kidderminster Harriers (also FA Trophy 4r)	H																			
Sat	Mar	3rd	Tamworth	A																			
Sat	Mar	10th	Curzon Ashton	H																			
Sat	Mar	17th	North Ferriby(also FA Trophy semi final first leg)	H																			
Sat	Mar	24th	AFC Telford United (also FA Trophy semi final second leg)	A																			
Sat	Mar	31st	Southport	H																			
Mon	Apr	2nd	Spennymoor Town	A																			
Sat	Apr	7th	Boston United	H																			
Sat	Apr	14th	FC United of Manchester	A																			
Sat	Apr	21st	Nuneaton Town	H																			
Sat	Apr	28th	Stockport County	A																			
Wed	May	2nd	play off qualifying round																				
Sun	May	6th	play off semi final																				
Sat	May	12th	play off final																				

SEASON'S STATS

Yellow Card
Red Card

Scorers Names in **BOLD**. Coloured names are players who featured in substitutions. (Players involved have matching colours)

Last match

V Blyth
Lost 1-3

We'd like to thank the following shops and pubs for putting up Darlington FC fixture posters

Green Dragon
Tanners
Hole in wall
Boot and shoe
Pennyweight
Quays
Berties
Red lion
The George
Brittania
Half Moon
Railway Tavern
Alliance Cafe
Harrowgate Hill shop
Vapemaster
Terry Andrews butchers
Laundrette
Salisbury tc
Glad News
Jigsaw
Turks Head
Lavas Barbers
Art shop
Beeswing inn
E.cowton shop
Greenbank hotel
Fry days
Paws and claws.
Three Squares Café
Coniscliffe News
Brian's Hairdressers
Sweeny's Barbers
Quaker House
J&G Deli
Mulholland&Son Butchers
Craig Shields Fruit & Veg
The Diner
Robin Blair Fruit & Veg
Shanie's Barbers (under covered market)

Cockerton Village Shops

Alderson Butchers
Cockerton Fisheries
Co Op
Village Opticians
Travellers Rest
Cockerton Library
J Maddison Barbers
SLC Barbers
Pound Plus

Mascot - Caitlin Gunn

Today's mascot is 13 year old Caitlin Gunn, who goes to Longfield School. Her favourite players are Harvey Saunders and Josh Gillies.

The club is sad to learn of the death of James Milner, one of the heroes of our 1957-58 FA Cup run.

"Jimmy", who was born in Newcastle, was signed from Burnley and made his debut in the away game at Wrexham on 21st December 1957.

He was a regular over the rest of that season, and was part of that glorious team that won at Norwich City in the third round of the FA Cup, and then dramatically beat First Division giants Chelsea in a replay in the fourth round – one of the greatest moments in the club's history -- before going out at another giant, Wolves, in the fifth round.

In his fourth season he was a part of the team that beat Crystal Palace and West Ham in the Football League Cup, before losing at home to First Division Bolton Wanderers in front of a mammoth 21,023 crowd at Feethams. He also played in the long running FA Cup second round tie against Hull City that went to four replays.

Jimmy made 167 appearances for us, scoring 28 goals, before moving to Accrington Stanley at the end of the 1960-61 season.

We would like to pass on our condolences to his family.

Feethams DARLINGTON

FOLLOW COVERAGE OF DARLINGTON'S GAMES ON TWITTER, THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE, YOUTUBE AND DARLO FANS RADIO -- ALL SPONSORED BY FEETHAMS LEISURE.

FOR DAILY AND BREAKING NEWS FROM THE CLUB, GO TO OUR OFFICIAL CLUB WEBSITE

DARLINGTONFOOTBALLCLUB.CO.UK

Would you like to help Darlington FC on a match day -- there are various jobs that need doing.
Drop John Tempest a line on john.tempest@darlingtonfc.org

PHOTO*finish*

TODAY'S GAME IS THE FIRST AT BLACKWELL MEADOWS WITH TOMMY WRIGHT AND ALAN WHITE IN THE DARLINGTON DUG-OUT, OUR NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM WHO BECAME QUAKERS TEAM-MATES IN THE 2007-08 SEASON.
THEY ARE PICTURED IN THE MIDDLE ROW OF THIS TEAM PHOTOGRAPH, TOMMY IS FOURTH FROM LEFT WITH ALAN SEVENTH FROM THE RIGHT.
TOMMY HAD ARRIVED IN THE JANUARY OF THE YEAR FROM BARNSLEY, ONE OF DAVE PENNEY'S FIRST SIGNINGS, WHILE ALAN JOINED IN THE SUMMER AFTER LEAVING NOTTS COUNTY AS ONE OF SEVERAL SEASONED PROS BROUGHT TO THE CLUB IN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE PROMOTION, AND QUAKERS WERE SO CLOSE TO GOING UP.
WE FINISHED IN THE PLAY-OFFS AND AT ONE STAGE OF THE SECOND LEG AT ROCHDALE WE LED 3-1 ON AGGREGATE, BUT DALE RECOVERED TO LEVEL THE TIE AND THEN BEAT US ON PENALTIES.

Virgin trains

>TODAY'S TEAMS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DARLINGTON

ADAM BARTLETT	
ED WILCZYNSKI	
LIAM MARRS	
CHRIS HUNTER	
DOMINIC COLLINS	
KEVIN BURGESS	
GARY BROWN	
TERRY GALBRAITH	
TOM PORTAS	
LEON SCOTT	
PHIL TURNBULL	
DAVID SYERS	
JAMES CATON	
NATHAN CARTMAN	
MARK BECK	
JOSH GILLIES	
STEPHEN THOMPSON	
HARVEY SAUNDERS	
JOE WHEATLEY	
JACK VAULKS	

BRACKLEY

DANNY LEWIS	
LUKE GRAHAM	
GARETH DEAN	
ALEX GUDGER	
STEVE DIGGIN	
MATT LOWE	
LEE NDLOVU	
JAMES ARMSON	
ADAM WALKER	
ELLIS MYLES	
GLENN WALKER	
SHANE BYRNE	
ANDY BROWN	
CONNOR FRANKLIN	
JACK BYRNE	
JORDAN WILLIAMS	
GREG KAZIBONI	
KHRIS OTI	
BEN TILNEY	
AARON WILLIAMS	

> Match officials:

Referee: James Bell

Assistant referees: Daniel Jarvis and Neil Howlett

> Next home matches:

Saturday 18th November
Tamworth, kick off 3pm

Saturday 25th November
Possible home FA Trophy 3rd qualifying round tie

> Next away matches:

Saturday 11th November
Kidderminster, kick off 3pm

Saturday 25th November
Possible away FA Trophy 3rd qualifying round tie

> Today's other games:

Bradford PA v Blyth Spartans, Leamington v Boston United, Nuneaton v Spennymoor Town, Salford v Alfreton, Southport v North Ferriby, Stockport v FC United of Manchester, York City v Curzon Ashton

> Match sponsor

Sherwoods
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 90 years

> Matchball sponsor

Donny, Chris & Spudford

> Mascot

Caitlin Gunn

For all official news about Darlington Football Club, please go to our official website
www.darlingtonfootballclub.co.uk

Virgin trains

25% DISCOUNT

Don't forget to take advantage of our 25 per cent discount off Virgin Trains fares on the east coast main line.
For details see our official website **www.darlingtonfootballclub.co.uk**

Do you want to be a match sponsor, matchball sponsor or mascot for a Darlington game? Then drop us a line on commercial@darlingtonfc.org and we'll give you details

Do you fancy sponsoring a page in our match day programme (like the one on page 3?). Then please contact us on commercial@darlingtonfc.org

Do you want to sample our hospitality at Blackwell Meadows? Then drop us a line on hospitality@darlingtonfc.org