

# Our Town, Our Club

## Acquiring STPL & STFC Shares

In late February, Danny Donegan approached TrustSTFC to see if we were interested in acquiring STPL and some 20% of shares that they owned in Swindon Town Football Company Limited.

The only stipulation that was made was that the exact figure should remain confidential. Not the easiest limitation to have placed on you when trying to raise a significant amount of money!!

Whilst owning a company such as STPL has questionable benefits, there is no doubt that in friendly hands, it would help secure the club's future.

Having approached a number of people around the Town, TrustSTFC was in a position to negotiate terms for the acquisition of STPL and the shares .

During the process of agreeing terms, Danny Donegan and Ian Blatchley withdrew STPL from the equation and offered to an undertaking that they would not call in the debenture with STFC.

At the time of writing, the price has not changed for what now is only effectively 20% of the shares in STFC, a club in Administration. This over prices the shares and not owning STPL would further jeopardise them.

Whilst discussions are still occurring with Danny Donegan, we do not feel that there is likely to be much progress with this, in particular given the current legal action being taken by the club against Danny Donegan.

## TrustSTFC Award Evening

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, TrustSTFC held it's first official function, the 2001/2 Player of the Year Award Evening.

Whilst the attendance was a little disappointing, all that were there appeared to enjoy themselves and all of the feedback we received was good.

The evening was attended by Matthew Heywood, David Duke, Eric Sabin and Alan Young, with Matthew Heywood picking up the Player of the Year Award (Bart Griemink was runner-up) and Danny Invincible the Young Player if the Year (Alan Young was runner-up).



As well as the buffet and presentations, a 20 minute season highlights video was run and, after a little cajoling by our Chairman Tony Norris, all four players took part in an entertaining question & answer session.

## ITV Digital - Going Down?

It's difficult to know who's really to blame with the ITV Digital/ITV Sport fiasco. ITV Digital were unrealistic in what they could afford and the football league accepted an unrealistically high figure without considering the long term viability of the contract.

Anyway, if you haven't shown how you feel about the damage this is causing to all of the Nationwide football league teams, do so now by getting the TrustSTFC IOU Sport T-shirt—Only £6.50 plus P&P and all profits go to your Trust.

Further details can be found on our web site ([http://](http://www.truststfc.co.uk)



[www.truststfc.co.uk](http://www.truststfc.co.uk)) or call 07887 612127 and speak to

# TrustSTFC Community Challenge Cup

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, TrustSTFC sponsored a 6-a-side tournament in conjunction with the STFC Football in the Community Office - The TrustSTFC Community Challenge Cup - which was held on the hallowed turf at the County Ground.

The day consisted of two separate competitions, with Under 10 teams in the morning and Under 12 teams in the afternoon.

If playing on the County Ground wasn't a big enough incentive for a fun day, a couple of things were done to make it even more memorable. Each team entered was given a country competing in this year's World Cup Competition and challenged to be the best turned out and/or supported team. Once they had arrived in their 'team' colours, the teams were led through the bowels of the North stand, so that on having their team name announced, they could run out through the tunnel.



The Under 10s competition was won by 'Nigeria', Fairford Town Youth, having won a closely contested final 2-0 against 'Sweden', Old Town United.

The prize for the best turned out/supported Under 10 team went to 'Italy', Malmesbury Youth. A lot of effort had gone into those famous blue shirts, with each of the players sporting a famous Italian name on the back - Spaghetti, Chianti....



The Under 12s competition was equally well contested and eventually won by 'France', Westbrook, after beating 'Spain', Stratton Youth, 1 - 0 in the final.



'Ireland', Ferndale-Rodbourne, won the best turned out/supported team, with their own set of junior cheerleaders and even some of the adults getting into the spirit of the tournament.

In all, the Community Office raised over £1,400 from the event, which will help to ensure they can continue the work that they do promoting football in the Swindon community.

In all of this, we must thank the club for allowing us to use the pitch and supplying replica shirts for the winners of the best turned out/supported teams.

## Members' Meeting

The next members' meeting will be held at 8:00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2002 in Winners Bar at the County Ground.

Two key issues will be discussed at this meeting.

Due to the financial constraints that Andy King is working under, his budget would not allow the continued use of the Zurich training facilities, which is located at Wanborough. Andy has approached the Trust to see if we would be willing and able to cover the short fall, which amounts to £8,000.

The Trust Fund Raising Committee and Board feel this is a fantastic opportunity to use some of the monies raised by the Trust to directly help the playing staff of Swindon Town. Andy has stated that the facilities available to the club at Zurich are superior to anything else available in Swindon and help in persuading players to join the club, and also help in the team preparations during the season.

We were to put this use of the money to a vote of the members, unfortunately events overtook us. So we announced the £8,000 donation for the training ground.

However we have had the £8,000 underwritten by a local company so that if the Trust membership disapproves of this use of the money, we will be able to ensure the sponsorship continues. So at this time we have not spent the £8000

In light of the new ticket prices that the club have inflicted on Swindon Town supporters, and the fact that membership renewal for many is on the horizon, the Trust have been reviewing the annual membership fee's.

We will also be introducing further membership options and will be seeking comment and approval from members.

*Fans Together  
Make a Difference*

