



# THMT NEWS

Issue 5  
Sept. 2011

It's been an encouraging start to life in the First Division for Ayr United and, with a cup upset thrown into the bargain (Inverness, not Annan) there is a lot to be optimistic about for the season ahead. Brian Reid's men have been playing some attractive, attacking football and are certainly holding their own against their full time rivals. The Honest Men Trust is in positive mood too and this month's newsletter includes the latest on United Futures, unveils which former Academy player the Trust are sponsoring this season, offers you a chance of hospitality at the Ally McLeod Suite and much more. Remember, if there is anything you would like to contribute to THMT News, or anything you would like covered in future newsletters please get in touch by email, letter, Facebook, Twitter... we're easy to find!



In our last Newsletter, THMT launched United Futures – a new initiative aimed at raising money for the Ayr United Football Academy and South Ayrshire Young Carers Centre. Now, here is the first date for your diary and also how you can support the campaign by donating your unwanted CDs and DVDs:

## United Futures under starter's orders!

To kick-off United Futures, THMT are hosting a race night at the Ally MacLeod Suite at Somerset Park on **Friday 21st October**. The evening starts at 7pm, with the first race at 7.30pm. Ahead of the night we are looking for race sponsors, prizes and of course to sell as many horses as possible! We will be sending out race cards to all our

members soon and, even if you cannot attend on the night, we hope you can support United Futures by 'selling' horses to friends, family, neighbours and work colleagues. The 'owner' of the winning horse from each racecard will receive a bottle of wine or spirits and there will be plenty of other opportunities to win big on the night!



Further details, including race cards, will be sent out very soon and if you would like to sponsor a race, donate a prize or assist in any way we would be delighted to hear from you. This is the start of our fundraising for the two very worthwhile causes that THMT will support throughout the season and we hope you will get behind what is sure to be an enjoyable evening.

## Recycle your old CDs & DVDs for United Futures

Got a pile of CD's you don't listen to anymore? DVDs you never watch? Well, THMT have signed up to a scheme to turn your unwanted CDs and DVDs into cash for United Futures. Music Magpie have agreed to pay us 50p for every suitable CD album or DVD. So, check your loft, glove box and under the bed and please donate any CDs or DVDs you no longer want. We hope to set up a collection point at Somerset Park soon, or get in touch if you have any CDs or DVDs we can put towards our fundraising.

### **Members put their shirt on Ross to shine**

Thanks to everyone who got in touch with their suggestions for which player they would like to see THMT sponsor this season. The most popular choice was Ayr lad Ross Robertson and the Trust are now the proud sponsors of 'Rosco's' away shirt. Ross celebrated in style with the winning goal against Raith Rovers. THMT also supported the Club's shirt sponsorship draw last month.



### **Planning ahead for Player of the Year**

THMT have booked a table at the Hospitality Suite on the final scheduled fixture of the season against Dundee on April 28th. At this event, we will present our Ally MacLeod Player of the Year trophy to the player that YOU vote as Ayr United's Player of the Year this season. This event is open to all members and if necessary we can book additional places provided seats are confirmed early enough. The event costs £75 per head for all the usual delights provided at a match-day hospitality event. Let us know if you are interested in booking a place.

### **Trust have positive meeting with Club**

Members of the THMT Board recently held a very constructive meeting with Lewis Grant, Managing Director of Ayr United FC where a number of issues and ideas were discussed

including idea on how the Trust and Club can work together to the benefit of the Club and Ayr United supporters. THMT Director, Neil Bone, who attended the meeting was delighted with the positive nature of the discussions: "The meeting covered a range of issues, including a major project proposed by THMT, which will require agreement from the Club" said Neil. "There are still a number of issues that we have to iron out before we can make that idea public but overall it was a very constructive meeting which we would like to build upon and ensure that there is an avenue for THMT to discuss issues for the benefit of both the Club and its supporters".

If any THMT member has any issue or an idea that you think we should put to the Club, send your e-mail to: [enquiries@thehonestmentrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehonestmentrust.co.uk)

### **Membership Renewals**

Its renewal time for many of our members and we hope you'll sign up for another year – and try and recruit some new members! Membership remains at £10 per year (free for under 18s) and we're always on the lookout for new members if you can recruit friends, family or workmates.

Alistair Gemmell will be in touch soon by email or letter if your membership is due for renewal, so please let us know if your contact details have changed recently. You can also find information on how to renew your membership and a membership form on the THMT website.

### **Andrew Charters**

THMT were sad to hear of the passing of Andrew Charters, the former Chairman of Ayr United and a member of THMT, who died last month at the age of 97. After retiring from his career in the police force, Andrew kept himself busy in many activities and spent three years as Chairman of Ayr United FC in the 1980's. He was very supportive of the work THMT were trying to

achieve and sent regular correspondence over the years supporting our activities after joining THMT following our formation in 2003. Our thoughts are with his family during this sad time.

### Trust AGM

The Honest Men Trust AGM will be held on Saturday 5th November 2011, prior to United's home game versus Morton. Further details to follow next month.

### Supporters Direct Update

THMT were represented within the corridors of power at Hampden Park recently, when Neil Bone took part in the SFA's second Council debate. The new format has its origins in the McLeish Report, utilising the SFA Council as a forum for a wider debate on issues affecting Scottish football and involving various independent guests. A panel – which consisted of Labour MSP Hugh Henry, SNP MSP Bob Doris, Fraser Wishart chief executive of PFA Scotland, Stewart Harris, chief executive of sportscotland, Ewing Grahame from the Scottish Football Writers Association, Alistair Gray from Renaissance & Co and Neil in his role as SD council member – spoke to the motion: “To what extent can football help drive a social and health revolution around the recommendation of 10,000 hours of football training for play development?”

As the discussion, chaired by SFA Chief Executive Stewart Regan, turned to a lack of facilities and, inevitably, finance, Neil was able to highlight to the Council the Ayr United Youth Academy as a successful partnership between the football club, local authority, supporters trust and health and education providers and to introduce SD's research paper *The Social Value*

*of Football* which looks at the social and community value of football and investigates ways in which we might measure or account for the social and community ‘value’ of football clubs and the added value that supporter or community ownership structures can bring.

You can read more about the meeting here: [http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish\\_fa\\_news.cfm?page=1338&newsCategoryID=3&newsID=8303](http://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_fa_news.cfm?page=1338&newsCategoryID=3&newsID=8303)

As this demonstrates, The Honest Men Trust are not only your football club's Trust. We are also

active members of a larger network of Trusts and likeminded supporters who are interested in the sustainability of Scottish Football currently working with Government, Parliament and the Scottish Football Association to have Scottish football supporters views appreciated by those who make decisions on our behalf. Contribute to your Trust, and encourage your fellow friends and supporters to become members of

THMT and help support the work Trusts do locally and nationally. Feel free to get in touch with any thoughts you have on anything regarding SD Scotland and the future of the game in Scotland.

### Changing Scottish Football blog

<http://changingscottishfootball.net/> continues to be an excellent read for insightful comment on the future direction of Scottish football. A recent article by Simon Barrow, *Time for Hopeful Realism*, looks to offer a constructive and realistic way forward for our game – a ‘fan's plan’ – that focuses on how the game can be developed and improved here in Scotland starting with the renewal of commitment, enthusiasm and accountability at the grassroots: “For a future where fans matter”.



## Whitletts Update

While Ayr United travel to Cappielow this weekend, Dam Park is the venue as Whitletts Victoria host Hurlford United in their Superleague First Division fixture. Kick-off is at 2pm. The following Saturday they play host to high flying Ardrossan Winton Rovers, managed by former Ayr United striker Derek 'Freddie' Frye. Rovers put EIGHT past Girvan last Saturday and this looks to be a tasty match.

Ardrossan also return to Dam Park on West of Scotland Cup duty on Saturday 15th October but before that, Vics have to make the long haul to Banff in the Scottish Junior Cup, a journey made twice by Ayr United in the past decade, to take on local junior side Deveronside. That match is on Saturday 1st October and highlights the financial problems of the Junior game. With little income themselves at present, Vics will have to fork out around £1,000 to hire a bus to make the trip North but the first round of the Junior Cup only guarantees them gate receipts of £275. So, if for whatever reason you can't make an Ayr game, check to see where the Vics are playing and get along to Dam Park to support Ayr's only Junior side.

Off the field, the Vics have launched their own fortnightly lottery with tickets costing £1 each or £20 for the year which guarantees entry for every draw for the next twelve months. For full details, visit the Vics website at [www.whitlettsvictoria.com](http://www.whitlettsvictoria.com).

Also planned is a Sportsman's Dinner at Highgrove House Hotel, Troon on Sunday 20th



November at 6pm. The event will be chaired by Jim 'Buller' Reid with other speakers to be announced soon. THMT have taken a table at this event. If any member would like to attend this event, contact THMT at [enquiries@thehonestmentrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehonestmentrust.co.uk). Tickets cost £35 each.

THMT are also producing a match programme for every home Vics match this season, well worth the read at only £1.

### Get in touch.

Website: [www.thehonestmentrust.co.uk](http://www.thehonestmentrust.co.uk)

Email: [enquiries@thehonestmentrust.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@thehonestmentrust.co.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/thmt](http://www.facebook.com/thmt)

Twitter: [twitter.com/Honestmentrust](https://twitter.com/Honestmentrust)

#### The Honest Men Trust

c/o 15 Quail Road, Ayr, KA8 8LT

Ayr United Community Initiative – The Honest Men Trust.  
Registered Industrial and Provident Society Reg. No. 2635 RS

**United Futures**

**RACE NIGHT**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October  
Ally MacLeod Suite,  
Somerset Park

More details coming soon!

Help us to **RAISE MONEY** by recycling your **CD ALBUMS & DVDS**

START YOUR COLLECTION TODAY

musicMagpie