

Paul Birch Memorial Trophy 2011

Saturday 21st May



Welcome

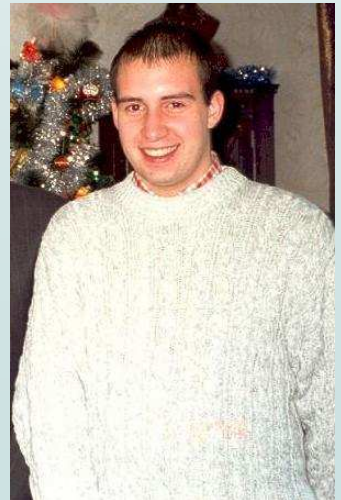
Hello and welcome to the 7th annual Paul Birch Memorial Trophy.

First of all we'd like to welcome all players who are taking part in today's games and also to Steve Martin, who has kindly agreed to referee.

As the club has two, large committed squads, the format of the competition has changed again this year so every player will get a chance to play. What we'll be seeing both the 1st team and Reserves take on the mighty Paul Birch Old Boys with the winners being decided by points and goals scored.

This year we've had to draft in some new players to help the traditional old boys as some of them are already playing for the club again whilst others are not so keen to dust the boots off anymore. Luckily the club have many former players and we've managed to pull a side together of ex players who will have their first outing as an 'old boy'!

As well as remembering Paul, today is also a chance for the club to celebrate what has been a successful season for both sides with the Reserves winning their league and the 1st team getting promoted to the Premier Division. As always I'm sure you'll all enjoy today's games and we hope to see you all in the bar afterwards for the awards presentation and a drink or 10!!





Dave Birch

Welcome to the Annual Paul Birch FC Memorial Trophy Match and Presentation day.

This season has been very successful with the Reserves winning the 5th Division championship. My congratulations go to all the players and the Manager Ryan Tarrant, his 1st season as manager and our first league title. The 1st Team have also done very well by finishing runners up in the 1st Division.,despite Manager Steve Birch having to use over 30 different players throughout the season. Well done to the players and I wish you well in your promotion to the Premier Division.

I am grateful to all the players who have pulled on a PBFC shirt over the past 15 years and my thanks go to you all for help making this a very special club.

I cannot give enough thanks and praise to our Secretary Mike Smith who continues to give a lot of his time to making sure our administration and profile are taking care of. He is the person that ensures our pitches and fixtures are agreed and that our matches get played at the right venue and right time. He organises our regular club meetings and keeps everybody informed as to how matters are going. He is also a committed member of the Orpington and Bromley League and is currently the Asst General Secretary. Thank you Mike and please keep up all the good work you do for PBFC.

Well I hope you enjoy the football today and hope to see everybody back in the bar afterwards for the presentation of awards. A food buffet will be available free of charge. Please encourage your wives, girlfriends partners, parents and children to come along.

Dave Birch
PBFC Chairman

Steve Birch



First off all I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all the players and supporters attending today's event. I think it's absolutely superb that the club are able to bring so many people together for the occasion and it's proves what a special club this is.

It will be good to see some old faces again this year although it seems the bodies of some of the older folk have finally given in to the abuse they inflicted on themselves after 50 pints a week! This means we'll be seeing a more youthful looking old boys team but no doubt they'll still be just as keen to get one over the current teams.

It's fair to say this season has been the most successful season for the club with the Reserves becoming champions of Division Five and the 1st team finishing runners up of Division One.

It's taken a while for the Reserve team to flourish after a few shaky years but since Ryan "Mike Bassett" Tarrant and Paul "Brian Kidd" Johnson took over the reigns they have gone from strength to strength. As a double act they've built a team with quality and an impressive team spirit which saw them romp to title with 7 wins and a draw in the 2nd half of the season. I think I speak for everyone in the 1st team in congratulating Tarrant, PJ and the players on a marvellous achievement. Winning the league at any standard is very hard to do and I've sat back and admired the way they have taken the pressure off the players to keep them relaxed. Doing this is not as easy as it looks and that above anything has impressed me the most. Rumour has it that a Kent League side have offered Brian Kidd a managers job but he's decided to stay as we're the only club where he'd get away with wearing his rascal green Ralph jumper.

For the 1st team it has been a great season finishing runners up in the league. I always believed we were the best side in the division but after long term injuries, absentees due to weddings / babies etc and Danny Alder doing a Gary Glitter and emigrating before he was arrested, the squad has been thin to say the least. Fortunately we managed to get some new

players in and others to cover so we were able to get 11 players out each week, but in the end the season has been a huge success.

If you look at the stats then our season has been even more impressive. We finished the season on the best run out of any team in the seven divisions by going undefeated in our last 8 games, infact we only lost 1 of our last 13 games. In total we managed to keep 9 clean sheets in 29 games with 8 of those coming in the league (yes Tarrant I am counting the two the league chalked off for AFC Orpington) which means we were joint top with the Reserves. We also had the second lowest goals conceded average of any team, only bettered by the Reserves!

Looking at each league I see that the first division was the most competitive with the points difference between top and bottom being the lowest of any league. If you consider this and add our problems with player availability what we have achieved this season is remarkable. My thanks have to go to the players whose attitude and dedication has been nothing short of superb all season and they fully deserve to be rewarded for their hard work. We've built a good side with some decent young players and if we manage to have a more regular team next season, I have no doubt we will do very well.

I want to take the opportunity to say BIG thank you to a some people who have been instrumental this season. Firstly to Scott for being the team accountant, although he likes this job as the subs finance his Sunday drinking sessions. Thanks to Adam who since shaving that dreadful beard off has been a great help with the equipment and admin duties. In all seriousness he does the job superbly with no whinging whatsoever which has allowed me to concentrate on managing the team more. And thanks also to Danny who did the job before Adam equally well. I must also thank my mum and dad who wash the kit every week to make sure we are well turned out. The players are probably not even aware who cleans the kit but I'm sure after reading this they appreciate all those hours mum and dad spend at the Launderette every week.

And lastly to Mike who once again has arranged everything off the pitch again in his as role club secretary. The majority of Mike's work goes unnoticed by the players as we do not see as much of him these days but it's true to say the club simply could not operate without the work he does behind the scenes. Although we get nagged sometimes both myself and Tarrant appreciate everything he does as it allows us to concentrate on running the teams rather than getting involved with the league. Being on the league committee takes up even more of his time so thanks must also go to Laura who has to put up with him talking about football everyday and attending meetings throughout the season.

For a while now everyone has been looking forward to today as it's a chance for us to properly celebrate a fantastic season for the club. I hope everyone enjoys the day and joins in our celebrations!

Steve

Ryan Tarrant



Hello and welcome to the everyone who is attending the annual old boys game and club end of season presentation, I think everyone will agree this gets bigger and better every year so long may it continue.

Moving onto the reserves season report. It can be described as nothing short of fantastic for my first season as an actual manager, I could not of asked for a better bunch of lads, many who have gone over the cause to help me along the way. I don't need to name them but I'm very grateful for the effort of every single player, its been a brilliant experience for me and if we keep this same core of players the reserves could go onto achieve a hell of a lot.

Now to our season, I started to notice morale became a lot better towards the back end of the season with the team picking up some pretty decent results. This boded well for me because I knew the squad had the ability they just needed to believe they had it, as always we had around 400 players turn up pre-season as Tarrant's little black book went into overdrive on his recruitment phase but come the first friendly we had a settled squad of around 18. Our first friendly was against a very good side in Footscray Lions and at half time we found ourselves 5-0 down but with the players that come in drove the confidence back up and although we lost 6-2 I knew I had a squad that would not roll over and would battle to the end. Pre-season continued with a mixed bag couple of defeats but also a couple of wins against higher opposition so it set us in good stead for the start of the season and what a start we had thumping Starks parks 9-1. Obviously not every game was like this but come Christmas time we was second and right in the mix. Well I don't know what was in everyone's turkey but from the first game in January the team went on a superb run winning 7 games, drawing one and losing only once taking us to the top with us sealing and the league with a 2-2 draw in the penultimate game against a very strong Orpington Rovers Reserves side.

The boys deserved this win. Yes, the manager has some input but it's the players who play and decide the results so every single one of them should be proud of winning the league. Some of our stats this season have been excellent with the team only conceding 18 goals in 18 league games (this also led us to finishing in the top three of clean sheets with 8 in the whole of the Orpington and Bromley league - one better than the first team.....sorry Steve!!!) and scoring wise we was averaging 3 goals a game which equalled to us scoring 62 goals in again 18 games.....not bad for a side who finished last season with a goal difference of minus 59!!!!

Cup wise - well the Presidents cup was pretty much non existent as I had 13 players out the night before (although it was me who had arranged this night out!) and to say everyone was a write off would be an under-statement, we lost 5-2 to my old side Orpington Rovers. To be honest this wasn't the end of the world as the Paul Picard cup is open to the whole league so next round we could of well got a senior side.

The smales trophy was a lot better for us and after beating a team two divisions above us in our first game we managed to get to the quarter finals and was beaten by a very good side in Eden park 'A'. Again a pretty decent cup run and hopefully it's a cup we can look at next season and hopefully get to the final.

Moving on to the club as a whole its been a fantastic season for the club with both teams doing well and the first team possibly grabbing runners up in the league, this its self was a fantastic achievement considering the injuries Steve has had to deal with. I would also like to Thank Mike for helping me through my teething problems and sorting out a pitch for us when we have needed one. Mike works very hard behind the scenes and sometimes people don't realise how much he does for the club but I for one am very appreciative of his efforts.

As for my players don't worry you will get your thanks on the day in Tarrant's "own special way" but again superb effort! Lets enjoy the day and no doubt the evening as well and ill see you all at pre-season so try not to eat and drink to much over the summer!

All the best
The special one (AKA Mike Bassett)



Secretary Update

Mike Smith

“The busiest man in Sunday Football”



Welcome once again to the Paul Birch FC Memorial game and end of season Presentation for 2010/11. What a season it has been!

It has without doubt been one of the most exciting seasons and definitely the most successful for the club. The first team secured promotion and a runners up spot in the First Division and a return to the Premier Division after an absence of two years. A great achievement and Steve has done brilliantly by building on a solid season last term. He added to the side and this is certainly one of the best squads we have had. Added to that another solid performance in the London Cup and everyone can be very pleased with themselves. Steve has handled playing for the side as well as managing well and can be very proud of the achievement.

Credit also needs to go to Steve's former assistant Danny Alder who is now enjoying the sunshine in Australia. Adam Flowers has now taken over and has done a good job. Mention should also be given to Captain Scott Major who has assisted with the administration duties this season and has coped with being harassed by me to collect fines from the players! He also led the side excellently all season.

Onto the reserves and finally success. It has been 4 years since Bromley Rovers FC became Paul Birch Reserves and it is true to say that at times it has been a struggle. However, we have kept the side going over the years in the hope that we may finally see some success. Ryan has now brought that to the club by finishing top of Division Five. Together with his very able assistant, Paul Johnson, they have built a side that has been consistently the best in the Division. They have transformed a side that a year ago couldn't buy a goal to a team that has put away 62 league goals! A staggering performance and I am sure that they can hold their own in Division Four next season.

I have not been around as much this season, having taken on more league duties, therefore it has been great to see more people getting involved with the running of the club like Paul and Adam and I would certainly encourage any players who have ideas on how to develop the club whether that be sponsorship or any other areas, to please let me know. The club has been established for 15 years now and has gone from strength to strength over the past few years. We have a reputation for being organised and any club that comes to play us now knows they are in for a game.

Finally, a special mention must go to Dave and Jean who are always cleaning the 1st team kit and being a huge support for the club. Dave always ensures that he is at club meetings and is certainly one of the main reasons why the club is still here.

Enjoy the day and lets hope we can build on this season's success with an even better 2011/12!

Mike Smith

Scott Major



After what has become the most successful season in the clubs history we are back for the biggest game of the season, the old boys game. It promises to be a great day what with the reserves becoming Champions of Division 5 and the first team being promoted to the premier. For the reserves it has been a great season with pretty much a brand new team being put together by Ryan and Paul so for them to go up as Champions is absolutely top draw and our congratulations go to them.

For the first team it has been a tremendous achievement to get promoted considering we have used 30 odd players over the course of the season. We have still managed to keep that consistency in our team shape and performances losing only 3 games out of 20 in the League and finishing just 4 points short of being champions. Last season we let in a high number of goals and it took us a while to get our shape right whereas this year we have set up pretty much 4-4-2 throughout the season and this is reflected in our results.

Under Steve's management we put in very solid performances over the course of the season. The team has been well marshalled by Ash "Vote for me" Watts in goal and there have been some new signings which have improved the squad, notably Scott "can you do a bit of running please" Hollingsworth, Sam "never ask me to go in goal again" Paterson and Kevin "Permanently crocked" Crockford.

The games today should be interesting with the much improved reserves under the stewardship of Mike Bassett looking to get one over the first team in the game today. The drinking committee managed to get Steve to whittle this down into a short format so we can all get in the bar as quickly as possible. The old boys will be looking to get one over on both teams and they still have a number of quality players who can make the difference on the day. Old first team manager Dave Curtis is even making an appearance, I mean old in the fact that he is old and not that he did manage the team a few years ago.

Notable key absentees for today's game include Dave Martin who if rumours are to be believed is already preparing for next season and is currently abroad altitude training. Rocky Dennis is also absent and we have heard on the grapevine that he is making a comeback next season, not sure if that's true, though he did always talk a good game.

Back to today and hopefully it will be a good day for all. I hope the results go our way otherwise Bummars is going to be a real nuisance in the bar afterwards.

Cheers

Scott



An interview with

Paul

Johnson



When did you join the club and why?

I have been at the club around 2.5 years now. I saw an advert in Shoot magazine, for a 'free scoring midfielder with premiership experience' – I looked at myself in the mirror and thought, that's me! I rang up Mike Smith, who at the time was having a cuppa and a bacon sandwich, and he asked me to come training. The first person I saw was Lee Bowyer arriving in the car park in a Citroen Picasso – bizarrely he came over and introduced himself as Steve Birch! We started training, and I was terrible. I was slow, my touch was awful, I was unfit, fortunately Terry Paine pulled me to one side and calmed me down by telling me how many carp he had caught that day! As the weeks past I didn't seem to be getting at better, but I kept seeing a mysterious, spectacled man, with tape round his boots glancing at me from across the field. Eventually he introduced himself, as Ryan Tarrant, and upon deciding we had a lot in common we decided to go to Zens nightclub in Dartford, as it was GCSE result night, and it would be full of younguns. As most of you know, ive always been a hit with the ladies, but on this night we took Luke Hopkins with us, and every time I got within touching distance of kopping off with yet another 16 year old, high on exam results, Luke came over and tried to show them a card trick! Tarrant and I left and after convicing the police that we weren't being serious when we threatened to firebomb Papa Johns, we hatched a plan to turn Paul Birch into the footballing force it has become. 2.5 years later, I am still, slow, awful and unfit, but nobody has told me to stop coming yet, so I keep coming back!

What has this season been like in your new role as assistant manager?

Its been a bit of a learning curve, and I don't mind admitting I made a few tactical howlers, but anyone who saw the Orpington Rovers game will admit that I wouldve given Jose Mouriniho a run for his money that day! We had a few setbacks along the way, but we managed to work our way out of them. We lost Ashley Robinson, for the last few weeks of the season due to work commitments, and he was a very important player for us. Alfie Gard doesn't speak unless Ash is there so that was difficult. With a couple of weeks to go, and the Orpington Rovers game coming up, the pressure was getting to Ryan, and he was in danger of doing a Charlie Sheen style self impllosion. We took the decision that we best get him away, fortunately Darren Kavanagh made a few calls and managed to get him a cheap flight to Spain, providing that he travelled with the cargo and he managed to get rid of the 300 pairs of

sunglasses that Dazza has had in the boot of his car since last xmas. Finally, on the way to Starks Park away, the Brown Bullet suffered a terrible injury in Welling High St. Upon consultation, we were told that it was in fact career ending and as such the brown bullet will not be with us today. I think I speak on behalf of the club by thanking the bullet for its efforts over the last few years, and wish it well for the future. Seriously, everything was made a hell of a lot easier by the fact that we have a great set of lads, who will do whatever they can to help each other, and all get on very well. On the playing side, concerning myself, Tarrant made a tactical masterstroke himself around October time when he set fire to my boots. This prevented me from playing and was really the start in the upturn of our fortunes!

What has been your highlight of the season?

Ahh mate, highlights has been the name of the season, where to start! I think Ronan McCarthys moon walk in Affinity, watching Tommy Tanner reverse his car, Ryan Tarrants green Gola trainers, Russ Elmes leaving, West Ham getting relegated, and finally seeing Sam Tarrant smile are all up there, but winning the league on the last day was obviously the best. It must be the best ever season for the club what with both clubs getting promoted and we must be one of the biggest, most established clubs in the area now. We had a few players missing on the last day, so really it is our celebration today. So, if the first team are reading this, before getting ready, rest assured that a few feet away, in another dressing room, Ryan Tarrant and I are steaming drunk having been drinking heavily for several hours already. Also special thanks to Mike Smith who has done a lot for us in between drinking tea and eating bacon sandwiches

What are your ambitions for team / club next season?

I think we will be the same as the first team whereby we want to go up and compete at the top end of our respective divisions. Mike Smith excitedly rang me the other day, whilst at the league committee meeting, in between mouthfuls of bacon sandwich I managed to make out that West Ham United have approached the Bromley and Orpington League about switching to Sundays and coming into division 5 for next year. Apparently they are so skint, they are now asking Scott Parker to pay a tenner for subs, so I don't know how good they will be. With a bit of luck they will get themselves sorted though, as it's been hard on everyone watching Selby this season, wandering about in the car park asking everyone if they knew the way back to the 1966?!

Who do you think is the funniest player at the club and why?

To be honest there are loads, Billy Kingsmill and his mate Mike were pretty funny, but that wasn't deliberate! I'd have to say Russ Elmes I think. Everytime he walked in to the dressing room with his Chelsea hot pants and white Birkenstock sandals he had me in stitches!

Continued....

Like Tarrant you support Millwall, what it's like supporting such a pony team?

Going down Millwall is like a whos who of Paul Birch these days, there so many of us down there. I even overheard Bummers and Mark Caldecourt the other day, talking about jacking it in down the Valley and getting season tickets in the East Upper. You have Harry Montgomery limping round the car park, coming up with stories about losing house keys. Tommy Tanner is often seen wandering about with Greg, but they leave at half time, so they can walk round to New Cross and get in the Venue by 4 in the afternoon. Champagne Charlie Paine will be there, when he is not driving around in his money box on wheels. It's a great opportunity to speak to Charlie, cos come Sunday morning his phone generally goes straight to voicemail! At least Terry answers the phone even if he does only talk about fishing! Then theres Millwall's most famous supporter Akin Kayim, so famous in fact, that when he wore his Turkey shirt against Leeds, it featured in Goals on Sunday! When you walk in you've always got your fingers crossed that you don't bump into Ryan, just in case he has got those Green trainers again! Finally a special mention to Peter Helps, who goes to Millwall so often, he thought that they actually play there home games at Wembley!

You're well known for your funny stories, have you got any good ones for us?

Not really a story, but something happened this season that not many people know, and I think they should. We decided, too have a players night out, and as a twist, we made at Fancy dress. I came as Freddie the frog, from Rock and chips. Mark Caldecourt came as Raul Moat, Birchy turned up in a Birmingham shirt with 'bowyer' on the back and actually ended up signing a few autographs, Sean Henty came as Robert Green, Alfie Gard came as Christian from Eastenders, Dave Martin came as a young Paul McCartney, Luke Hopkins came as Frankenstein, complete with a set of cards, and Akin Kayim, came as Richard Reid – the shoebomber. We stood in the turnpike excitedly to see who else was coming, we knew Bummers wouldn't be there because i drove past Sainsburys on the way down and there were loads of trolleys in the car park, and as Bummers always tells us, they don't collect themselves. We then get the call, that would change our evening. Its Sam Tarrant – Paul Birch's very own ray of sunshine, he rings his brother, and says 'keep it quiet but im not coming IVE BOOKED A MANICURE FOR MY HANDS!!!' Naturally Ryan did the decent thing, and as the Turnpike erupted into laughter, the news spread like wildfire, within a few minutes, there were rumoured to be texts flying about from as far South as the Medway towns! To be fair to Sam, he's a great lad, and he shrugged it off in his usual happy go lucky manor!

Anything else to add?

Yes, I'd just like to apologise for any offence caused in this article. Also I will be very drunk today, and careless, and possibly acting in a juvenile manor, so I apologise for that too. On a more serious note, id like to welcome back all the old boys, it will be good to see you all again, and I hope you enjoy the day. If you want some of the buffet, get in there before Mike does though. On an even more serious note, id just like to put in writing that my green Ralph jumper is in fact, well smart, and not a rascal in any way,

Bummers



Firstly, I would just like to say how honoured I am to be back involved with Paul Birch FC and Captaining the Reserves. This club really is a pleasure to be involved with and has a great bunch of lads in both the First and Reserve teams.

So, what a season for both teams, with the First Team gaining promotion to the Premier Division and the Reserves clinching the title in the fifth division.....Champions!! Champions!! Champions!! What a superb effort from all involved, well done boys!

I must also take this opportunity to thank Ryan and PJ for their great man management and tactical decisions that made this title possible, you guys really are a modern day Brian Clough and Peter Taylor!! Right the way through this team, 'Cloughie and Taylor' have installed a great camaraderie and many a Sunday morning could be heard "Hunt in Packs Boys, Hunt in Packs!!" ringing around the side lines! I think great credit also goes to Ryan in keeping a squad of 18 players happy and together for the season – a great achievement and a testament to the commitment and hard work that 'The Gaffer' has showed this season.

I have never played in such a good spirited team that works so hard for each other and that backs each other up on the football pitch at every opportunity (as our 'unfair' disciplinary record shows!!). Right the way through the team, from Callum Major breaking the Reserves clean sheet record in goal through to Harry Montgomery breaking the all time club goal scoring record up top! We have all stood up and been counted this season and thoroughly deserve to be crowned Champions!

So we move onto today's annual Paul Birch Memorial Game, and I am sure the first team will see this as a great opportunity to get their hands on some silverware this season!! Also I am sure there will be a few old famous faces knocking about, all with their own stories to tell of how football was a real mans game back in the day and how us youngsters have it all so easy these days!!

It is going to be a really great day and a chance for us all to celebrate such a fantastic season for Paul Birch FC.

I hope you all enjoy the day.

Cheers, Chris

Paul Birch FC Players 2010/2011

1st Team

Ashley Watts
Scott Hollingsworth
Scott Major
Kevin Crockford
Sam Paterson
Adam Flewers
Helder Branco
Dave Martin
Alan Selby
Charlie Paine
Tommy Tanner
Danny Tarrant
Terry Paine
Paul Smith
Steve Birch
Danny Alder
James Collins
John Wawrzewski

Reserves

Callum Major
Chris Wiltshire
Darren Kavanagh
Bradley Knight
Luke Hopkins
Sean Henty
Paul Partridge
Sam Tarrant
Ashley Robinson
Alfie Gard
Harry Montgomery
Craig Liasi
Akin Kayim
Peter Helps
Billy Turner
Mark Caldecourt
Ryan Tarrant
Paul Johnson



Management Committee

Dave Birch	Chairman
Mike Smith	Secretary
Steve Birch	1st Team Manager
Adam Flewers	Assistant 1st Team Manager
Ryan Tarrant	Reserve Team Manager
Paul Johnson	Assistant Reserve Team Manager