



South East Poolies News - January 2019!



I would like to say a huge welcome to those reading our monthly update for the first time. January has been a massive month for us as we head into our 10th year and has seen us make some fantastic progress. These updates allow us to communicate with both members and close friends in an open manner and ensure that everyone is aware of what is happening within the group. Due to the large number of new people receiving this update we will open with an introduction of the group.



Organisation

Starting out 10 years ago we were limited in numbers and organisation. Having spent time with similar exiled branches of other clubs, we decided that it was important not to become political as this makes working difficult and you can lose focus of what you want to achieve (if anyone ever wants to hear the story then I am happy to tell it!). For these reasons we don't have an elected committee or official titles. I tend to do the general administration and co-ordinating, but we have a wide range of members who do other tasks within the group. Basically, if you feel you can offer help in any way then please just let us know as there is plenty of need and opportunity. That could include articles, pub suggestions, merchandising or anything else that you feel would help us.

In terms of finance, it's important that we keep a close watch on anything that goes in or out of our account. As an indication of the importance, we will possibly turnover in excess of £5,000 this season, a large amount of money that we must deal with responsibly. As part of the monthly update, a copy of the latest accounts will be sent out. This is a clipped section showing an overview of our funds and projected funds. It forms part of a much larger spreadsheet with all activity contained. This is available for any member to view on request. Our funds are held in a PayPal account, as this offers us easy access. Having previously held a bank account this posed us a wide range of issues in accessing funds, especially at short notice and via online payment. The website allows you to pay into the PayPal account via a debit card. For those who don't wish to do that please

speak to me as we can arrange alternative methods. This includes transfer into my account, which I can move into the PayPal account.



Merchandise

One word.... Unbelievable! Terry Sengelow should be applauded for the work that he has done in selling caps and duts at away games. He has sold so many that not only have we run out, but the suppliers also! He has x3 duts remaining that have already been reserved for this Saturday. I will be ordering more duts in the next batch and caps closer to the summer. With the next dut order there will be a ladies' range too.

Polo shirts have been another huge success and the quality has been outstanding. There will be another batch ordered in the first week of February. I also hold a small stock so please contact me if you are interested in purchasing one. With the next batch we will also be able to order other items, including the excellent windproof jacket that Gary Barley will be wearing at Ebbsfleet.

Next on the horizon for the end of the season is a SEP Pint Glass and Coaster. This is so that we have long-term memento to remember our 10 years by. I am still researching these and hope to be able to sell them for around the £10 mark, but with an emphasis on quality as per the polo shirts. If anyone is happy to take on this project then please let me know!

Hartlepool Weekend

Travel arrangements are all in place. This is harder than it would seem as the prices go up and down at a regular rate and sometimes there is a limited number of each price available. That makes group bookings hard work, especially on a Sunday. As a result of this, we will be travelling by train on the Friday and returning by minibus on the Sunday. Full timings and arrangements will be sent out next week.



Lenny Johnrose Fundraiser

This is taking place on the Saturday night of the Hartlepool Weekend and we have x20 tickets booked for this event. These are priced at £10 each, which will

be paid to me on the day. To help on the night we will be sponsoring a horse at a cost of £20. In addition we will also conduct our usual football card throughout the weekend, but at £2 per team, which should raise £60 for the fund. All proceeds will go towards MND Charity. On top of this we have also had a £50 charitable donation from a member that will be handed over on the night.

In order to support Lenny and thank him for his recent interview, we sent him a cap, card and letter, receiving the following response from him....

Hi Stuart,

I'm sorry it has taken me so long to respond, it's been a bit hectic. Firstly, can I thank you for your letter; you said so many nice things, it really means a lot. I absolutely loved my time up in Hartlepool, and as you say, the fans were brilliant. From a personal point of view, it's great to hear that I made a bit of an impact. I can't believe it was so long ago that I was there.

Absolutely no problem about the interview, it was my pleasure.

Finally, can I thank you for sending out the cap, I wear it with pride!

Can't wait to get back in March, I'm looking forward to seeing how much things have changed, and like you say, hopefully we will see a Pools victory.

Thanks again.

L Johnrose

Finances

Once the Hartlepool Weekend has been paid for and remaining balances for this and other items have been received, we will still have in excess of £1,000 in funds.

Upcoming commitments include;

£20 for the Lenny Johnrose Fundraising Evening to sponsor a horse.

£20 to purchase a polo shirt for the winner of the January new members raffle.

£20 (approx.) for a Player of the Year Trophy.

The recent new membership drive has made a profit of over £50 (correct at 30.01.19) even after the polo shirt cost.

Football cards continue to be popular at southern away games, and many teams are sold before arriving at the first pub! We usually use a £60 team, which give us a £30 profit per usage.

Little things like this go towards our impressive current total and we will be



And finally

I told you all that we had made a special signing, well I would like to welcome the Hartlepool United Legend Rob McKinnon to our membership. Although living in Scotland, Rob accepted an offer of honorary membership and we are proud to have him on board.

Thank you all for your time,

Never Say Die

Stu Miller

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