

Tuesday, August 05, 2008

Heritage Lottery Fund grant awarded to Tamworth Football Club Supporters Club

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £25,000 to Tamworth FC Supporters Club (Heritage Project), it was announced today.

The history of Tamworth Football Club will now be collated through memories of fans, residents, and people involved with the club since its formation in 1933 and represented in a diverse number of ways.

Work will start almost immediately and the group behind the bid, all Tamworth FC fanatics, are looking for anyone with memories and / or memorabilia to come forward and help make the project a success.

The four main aims of the project which is due for completion in September 2009 are;

- i) a fully interactive website coupling audio and visual memories and memorabilia with the playing history of the club
- ii) an illustrated 'guide book' drawing on aspects of the information and artefacts gathered for the website
- iii) a set of 'top trumps' style playing cards detailing players, management, events and milestones in the club's history
- iv) an exhibition to be held in the town encompassing all of the above and more

Dave Clayton, who is heading the project said, "A lot of Tamworth's playing history has already been documented by officials at the Football Club and there has been interest in getting it into the public domain for some time. Our project aims to go one step further and include contributions from the people that were actually there, telling the story of the club through their memories. Tamworth FC turned 75 this year and we would like to think that this project will go some way to ensuring the history of the people who were involved from the start to the present day is documented for generations to learn from and enjoy."

The project has the full backing of Tamworth Football Club and general manager Russell Moore said, "Thousands of local residents and people from far and wide have come through the turnstiles, first at the Jolly Sailor ground and now at The Lamb, in the past 75 years, and it will be fascinating to see the outcome of the project, not only for football fans but for the town as a whole, and we wish them every success."

Tamworth Heritage Trust also offered their support for the project. Honorary secretary Nigel Morris told the group, "We regard this type of archive as a vital part of the record of the town of Tamworth. It is so much more vital to actually hear the voices of the people who took part in the ups and downs than just to read it in a book. We wish you every success."

The group will shortly be embarking upon their project and are asking anyone who would like to help in any way, large or small, to get in touch. A number of 'get togethers' in local establishments will be arranged for people to come forward with the aim of recording their memories and the group are more than happy to visit anyone who contacts them directly, if preferred.

Further information and details of how to get involved and contribute can be obtained by contacting Dave Clayton on 01827 706538 or 07967 756918 or by e-mail: tfsc-heritage@hotmail.co.uk