



Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council held on 3rd December 2008

Present: The Right Worshipful, The Lord Mayor
Councillor Mavis Smitheman – In the Chair

Councillors Amesbury, Andrews, Ankers Ashley, J. Battle, Bethell, Bhatti, Boyes, Bracegirdle, Burns, Cameron, Carmody, Chohan, Chowdhury, Clayton, Commons, Cooley, Cooper, Cowan, Cowell, Cox, Curley, Dobson, Donaldson, Eakins, Evans, Fairweather, Fender, Fisher, Firth, Flanagan, Glover, Grant, Hackett, Harrison, Hassan, Helsby, Isherwood, Jones, Judge, Karney, Keegan, Keller, A. Khan, M. Khan, Kirkpatrick, Leese, Lewis, Lomax, Longsdon, Loughman, Lyons, McCulley, M. Murphy, N. Murphy, P. Murphy, S. Murphy, E. Newman S. Newman, O'Callaghan, O'Connor, Barbara O'Neil, Brian O'Neil, Pagel, Parkinson, Pearcey, Priest, Pritchard, Rahman, Ramsbottom, Risby, Royle, Ryan, Sandiford, Shaw, Siddiqi, Smith, Stevens, Swannick, Trotman, Walters, Watson and Whitmore.

Also Present: Honorary Aldermen Audrey Jones and John Smith.

CC/08/82 Death of Councillor Neil Trafford

The Lord Mayor formally recorded the sudden and tragic death of Councillor Neil Trafford as a result of a road traffic accident on Sunday 23rd November.

The Council recalled that Neil had served as Liberal Democrat Councillor for the Barlow Moor and Didsbury West Wards since 2003. He was an active Committee member and an accomplished political campaigner across the North West of England. The Lord Mayor said that the generous tributes paid to him in public forums and numerous websites in recent days was perhaps the clearest testimony to the very high regard in which he was held in many different fields of activity. In a short life she said that he had clearly achieved much and members were left to wonder what more he might have contributed in the future. The Lord Mayor indicated that members' thoughts were with his parents, family and his many friends who had suffered a grievous loss.

The Lord Mayor reported that a memorial service was to be held in the Town Hall at 2.30pm on Friday 5th December and that a Book of Condolence had been opened and was available for members to sign in the Ante Chamber

The Lord Mayor, Members of the Council, guests, officers of the Council and members of the public present at the meeting then stood in silent reflection to his memory.

CC/08/83 Terrorist incident in Mumbai

The Lord Mayor referred to the shock and horror at the tragic loss of life that occurred last week following terrorist incidents in Mumbai, India, and the Council recorded its condolences to the bereaved and its sympathy to those who have been maimed and injured in that incident.

CC/08/84 Honorary Freedom of the City of Manchester Sir Bobby Charlton CBE.

The following Motion was moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor –

That the Council hereby records its view that the powers entrusted to it by law of recognising distinctive and eminent service would be properly recognised by conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City of Manchester upon Sir Bobby Charlton CBE.

Sir Bobby Charlton's name is not only synonymous with football and Manchester United, but also with the highest traditions of professional sportsmanship. A long and distinguished career in club and international football justifiably earned him a worldwide reputation, but beyond his playing career he has continued to be a sterling ambassador for Manchester and for sport both at home and abroad, and a truly inspirational figure and role model for many aspiring young sportsmen and women.

The Council notes that Sir Bobby was born in Ashington, County Durham in 1937. His four uncles Stan, Jack, George and Jimmy, his mother's cousin, Jackie Milburn, and his brother Jack were all professional football players, so it was little surprise that Bobby became a footballer himself. He was scouted and played for England schoolboys and Manchester United's youth team at the age of 15.

He made his debut for the Manchester United 'Busby Babes' aged 17 in October 1956 and during the next 17 years made 754 league, cup and international appearances for the club, in which he scored a total of 247 goals.

In the wake of him surviving the Munich disaster in 1958, the youthful Charlton became a focus for public sentiment and the foundation upon which Sir Matt Busby would rebuild over the ruins of that tragedy.

Whilst a United player the club was successful in winning the 1st Division League Championship in 1957, 1965 and 1967, the FA Cup in 1963 and the European Cup in 1968.

In an international career from 1958-1970 he was capped 106 times for England and scored 49 goals for his country. In 1966, alongside his brother, Jackie, he was an

influential and inspirational member of the England team that was successful in winning the World Cup.

It is a testament to his professionalism and the high regard with which he is held in the football world that he also received both the European and Professional Footballer's Association Footballer of the Year Award in 1966.

The Council also recalls his invaluable contribution in support of Manchester's successful bid to the host the Commonwealth Games in 2002 and recognises his unofficial role as an enthusiastic ambassador for his adopted city of Manchester on his visits to many countries around the world.

In recognition of his many achievements, Her Majesty The Queen appointed him first as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1969. He was promoted as a Commander of the Order in 1974, and, in 1994 he received the honour of knighthood.

Despite these national and international honours perhaps the greatest accolade was paid to him by Sir Matt Busby who said that he was 'as near perfection as a man and a player as it is possible to be.'

In the opinion of this Council it is altogether fitting and proper to confer upon him the highest honour that is within the power of the City Council to bestow, and the Council accordingly resolves -

That pursuant to the powers contained in the Local Government Act, 1972, Sir Bobby Charlton CBE be, and is hereby, admitted to be an Honorary Freeman of the City of Manchester.

**CC/08/85 Honorary Freedom of the City of Manchester
Great Britain Olympic and Paralympic Cycling
Team**

The following Motion was moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor –

That the Council hereby records its view that the powers entrusted to it by law of recognising distinctive and eminent service would be properly recognised by conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City of Manchester upon the Great Britain Olympic and Paralympic Cycling Team 2008.

The Games of the 29th Olympiad held in Beijing witnessed a renaissance in British sporting achievement in a number of disciplines but for the City of Manchester it was the achievements of Great Britain's Cycling Squad that were most keenly followed because of their close connection with the City.

British Cycling is based at the National Cycling Centre, Manchester Velodrome and the majority of the Olympic and Paralympic cyclists live and/or train in the City.

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The 25 members of the Olympic cycling team were:

Jason Kenny	Cycling Track
Mark Cavendish	Cycling Track
Edward Clancy	Cycling Track
Ross Edgar	Cycling Track
Wendy Houvenaghel	Cycling Track
Chris Hoy	Cycling Track
Paul Manning	Cycling Track
Chris Newton	Cycling Track
Victoria Pendleton	Cycling Track
Rebecca Romero	Cycling Track
Jamie Staff	Cycling Track
Geraint Thomas	Cycling Track
Bradley Wiggins	Cycling Track
Steven Burke	Cycling Track
Roger Hammond	Cycling Road
Sharon Laws	Cycling Road
Nicole Cooke	Cycling Road
Steve Cummings	Cycling Road
Emma Pooley	Cycling Road
Johnny Bellis	Cycling Road
Ben Swift	Cycling Road
Liam Phillips	BMX
Shanaze Read	BMX
Oliver Beckinsale	Cycling Cross Country
Liam Killeen	Cycling Cross Country

The Olympic cycling team won a total of 8 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals, with 15 cyclists winning individual or team medals.

The 12 members of the Paralympic cycling team were:

Jody Cundy	Paralympic Cycling
Ellen Hunter	Paralympic Cycling
Anthony Kappes	Paralympic Cycling
Darren Kenny	Paralympic Cycling
Aileen McGlynn	Paralympic Cycling
Sarah Storey	Paralympic Cycling
Barney Storey	Paralympic Cycling
Rik Waddon	Paralympic Cycling
Rachel Morris	Paralympic Cycling
Mark Bristow	Paralympic Cycling
Simon Richardson	Paralympic Cycling
David Stone	Paralympic Cycling

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The Paralympic team won 22 medals of which 19 were gold and 3 were silver. Every team member won a medal. Their achievements are truly inspirational, bringing great distinction to them and to the City of Manchester.

The success of the team is a reflection of the structures put in place by British Cycling in recent years and particularly the high-performance programmes developed at the National Cycling Centre. The Council thus recognises the instrumental roles played by the President, Chief Executive, and Performance Director of British Cycling in both achieving the recent medal successes and in strengthening the relationship between the federation and the City of Manchester.

The Council's vision in pursuing the development of the Manchester Velodrome which opened in 1994 and is widely acknowledged as the world's finest and fastest track, was critical to the development of a centre of sporting excellence that has produced world class athletes and a sporting organisation that has demonstrated in the most convincing way possible that it can successfully take on the best in the world. In the opinion of this Council it is altogether fitting and proper to confer upon the Great Britain Olympic and Paralympic Cycling Team 2008 the highest honour that is within the power of the City Council to bestow, and the Council accordingly resolves -

That pursuant to the powers contained in the Local Government Act 1972, the Great Britain Olympic and Paralympic Cycling Team 2008 be, and is hereby, admitted to be an Honorary Freeman of the City of Manchester.

City Solicitor

**Lord Mayor
Chair of the Special Meeting of the Council**