

NOAH BROWN

One of our young supporters, Noah Brown, died of cancer in August aged just 19.

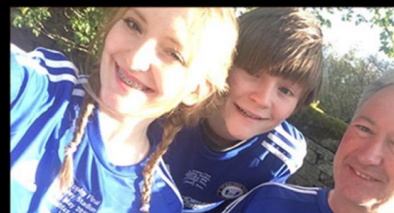
Noah was the fourth generation of his family to support Halifax Town. His dad Steve, grandfather Peter and great-grandfather Stanley Brown were all avid fans right back to the early 1930s, and Noah was at the Shay for games before he could even walk. When he could walk he was chasing mascot Freddie Fox around the ground at half-time to empty his sweet bucket before getting back to his seat in the East Stand behind the town dugout, to cheer on the Shaymen.

Always cheeky and living life at a hundred miles an hour, he found sitting still a challenge! At Harrogate Railway the referee once had to stop the match because Noah had climbed up the back of the net behind their keeper; in 2011 he was proud to run on as team mascot in the match against FC Utd of Manchester; and at Wembley in 2016 he was there to see Town triumph in the FA Trophy final against Grimsby Town. Even the family trip to Leicester's Walkers Stadium in 2006 to see Town lose in the playoff final against Hereford was a magical day out as far as he was concerned.

Pre-season open days were the highlight of his summer, mingling freely with the players, collecting autographs and having his picture taken with his heroes, not to mention kicking a ball around the Shay's hallowed turf - enjoying all the priceless experiences for youngsters that only exist at lower-league clubs. He even got to appear in a number of pre-season team photos.

Noah's heroes were many, from Lewis Killeen, Tom Baker, the late great James Dean, Scott Phelan and Richard 'Scooby' Marshall to Town legends Jamie Vardy and Lee Gregory. And when players went on to achieve higher up the football echelon, he avidly followed their careers.

Noah was only 17 when he was diagnosed with terminal bowel and liver cancer, an appalling blow for a young lad whose life should just have been beginning. Noah was not crushed by the terrible news, though - he faced it head-on with incredible bravery, and spent hours comforting his friends and family when you might have expected that they would be comforting him.



He was treated at St James's Hospital in Leeds, or Jimmy's as many will know it. Within the Bexley Wing on the fifth floor, is Ward J94, the Teenage Cancer Trust ward, which this incredible charity has entirely paid for. They have refurbished the ward with young people in mind and provided dedicated staff to help young cancer patients between the ages of 13 and 24. The day room is equipped with a jukebox, big-screen TV, games consoles, musical instruments, its own kitchen, dining area and comfy sofas everywhere, all in vibrant colours. Young people and their families mix to chat or enjoy creative workshops when they can, and everyone gets to feel they are not alone and that invaluable support is immediately at hand.

Teenage Cancer Trust has 28 such wards in hospitals around the country and all exist solely on charitable donations, receiving nothing in funding from the Government or the NHS. Their work is vital because cancer in young people is not as rare as one might believe. Every day seven young people in this country are told they have cancer, just as Noah was.

Noah's parents Julie and Steve, and his big sister Kizzy are now campaigning on behalf of Teenage Cancer Trust to raise awareness of their extraordinary work, not only in supporting youngsters and families with cancer, but also in educating young people in the symptoms and signs to look out for so that they can seek help and advice at the earliest opportunity. Early detection of cancer is critical so that more teenagers like Noah do not have to die at an unbearably young age.

A Just Giving Page in Noah's memory has been set up here at www.justgiving.com/page/steve-brown-1666981960667

You can donate to Teenage Cancer Trust here and read more about Noah. Even if you are unable to donate, please spread this link and Noah's story so we can help other families.

Noah will be forever loved and missed by Steve, Julie, Kizzy and all his family and many friends.

Noah Brown,
Born April 23, 2003,
Died August 8, 2022.