



EST. 1892

The Blaydon Races

The Fans' Version

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Presentation by Alan Fish

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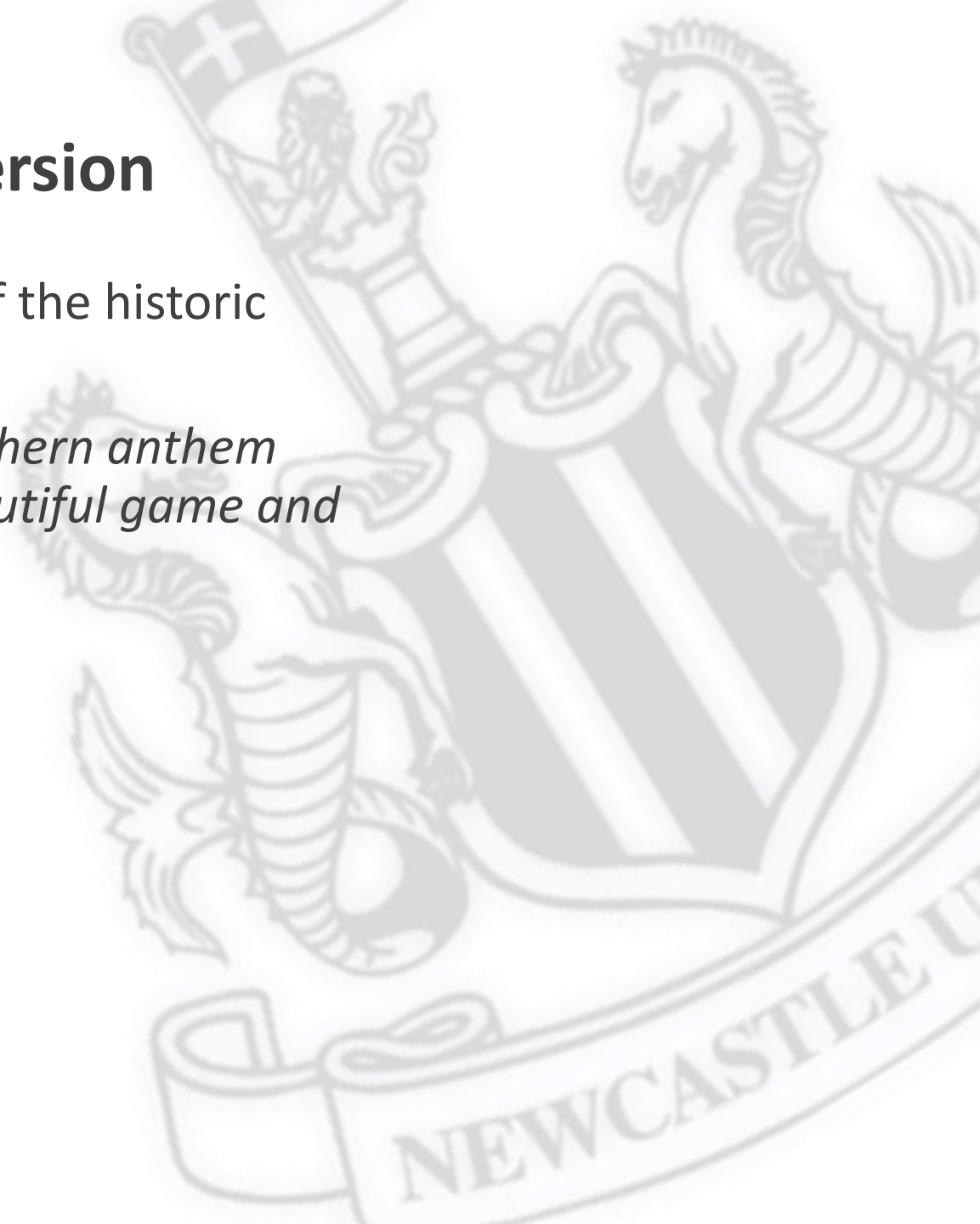
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The Blaydon Races – The Fans’ Version

After 125 years, the definitive fans’ version of the historic Blaydon Races is finally here.

“It is reinvented as a call to arms – a Northern anthem which captures the tribal spirit of the beautiful game and the roars at St James’ on match day.”

- Alan Fish

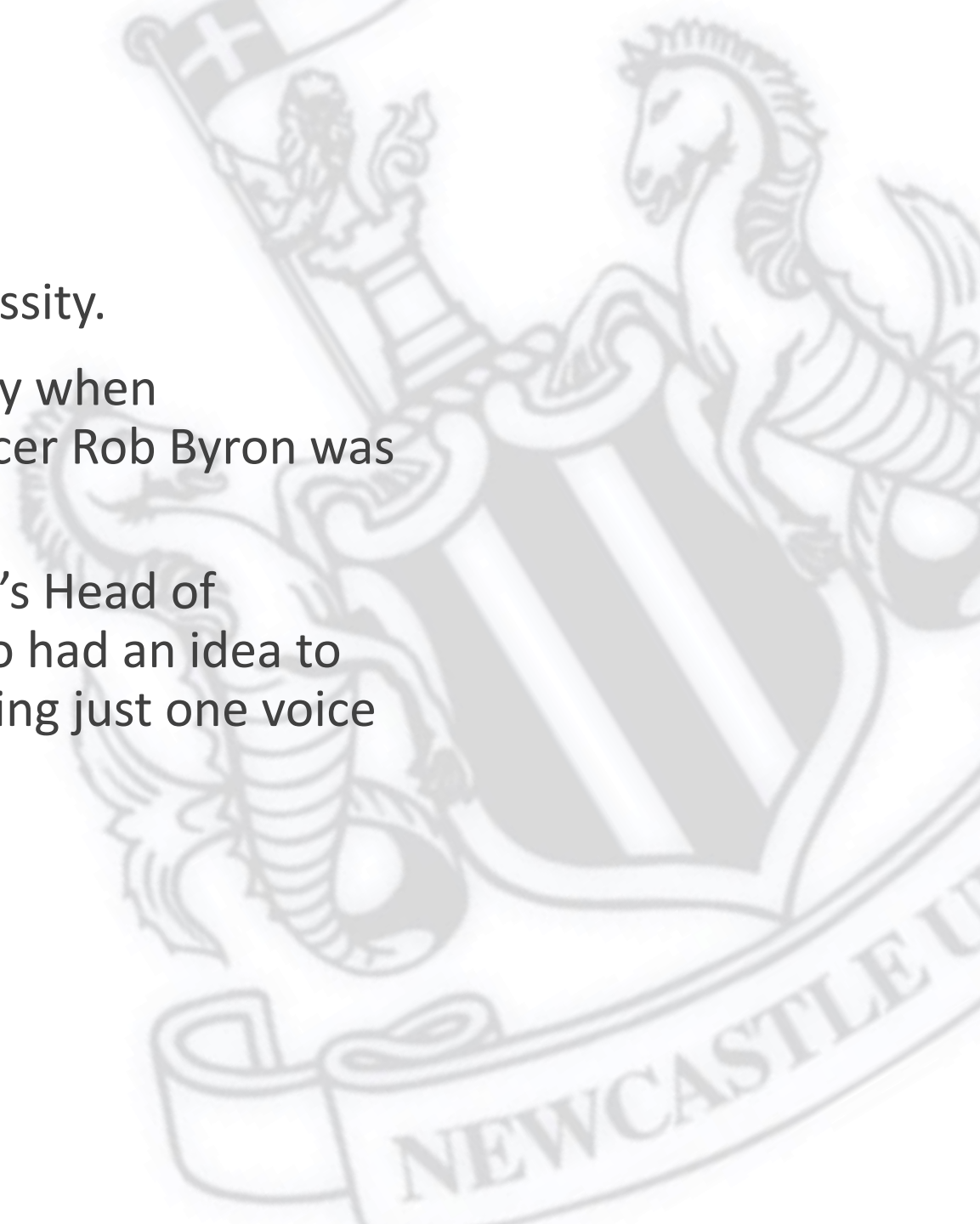


Pre-season...

The project was initially spawned out of necessity.

The classic recording had lost its sound quality when transferred from vinyl, so Match Day announcer Rob Byron was looking to recreate the Newcastle favourite.

Coincidentally, Rob was approached by NUFC's Head of Marketing Communications Lee Marshall who had an idea to create an a capella version of the song featuring just one voice which the fans could identify with.



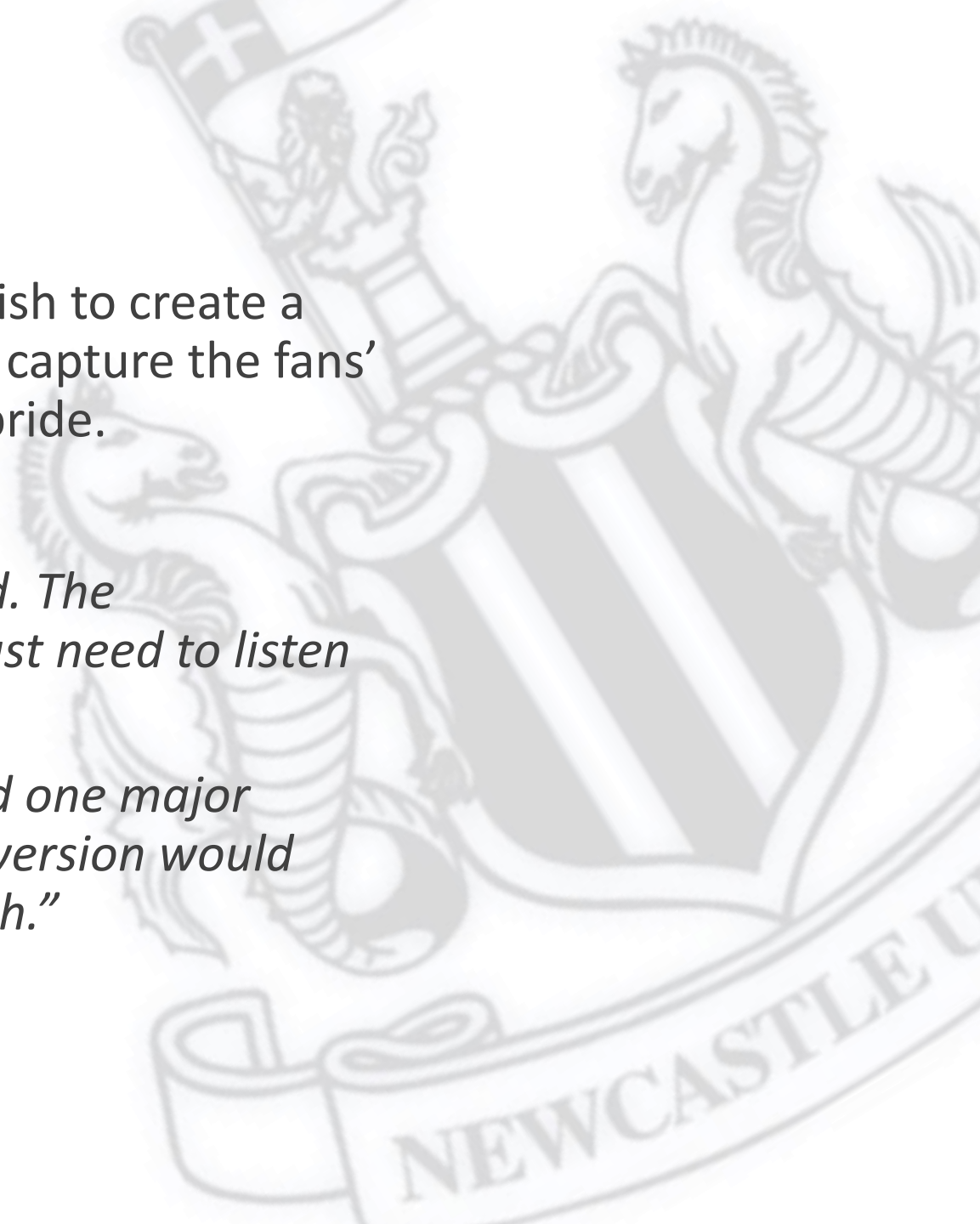
Talking tactics...

Rob and Lee challenged local musician Alan Fish to create a new version of the Blaydon Races that would capture the fans' imagination and create a sense of unity and pride.

Alan weighed up the options:

“Rob’s initial idea could be easily achieved. The arrangements were all there, we would just need to listen and recreate.”

Lee’s brief wasn’t so easy. In fact, it posed one major challenge – a straightforward a cappella version would never cut through the crowds at the match.”

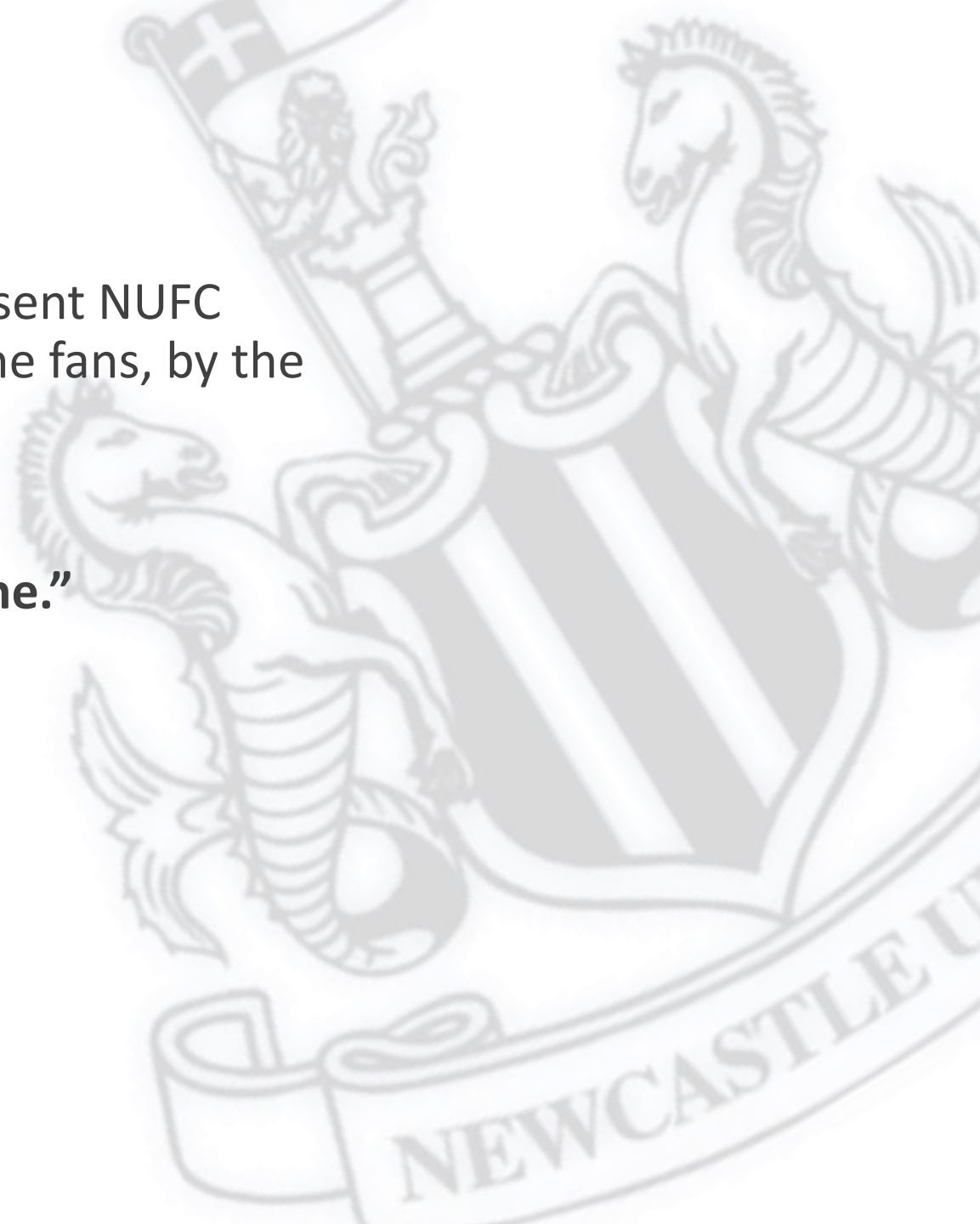


Kick off!

Alan wanted the new Blaydon Races to represent NUFC supporters past and present – a version for the fans, by the fans.

His vision:

“Not one voice, but 50,000 voices – as one.”

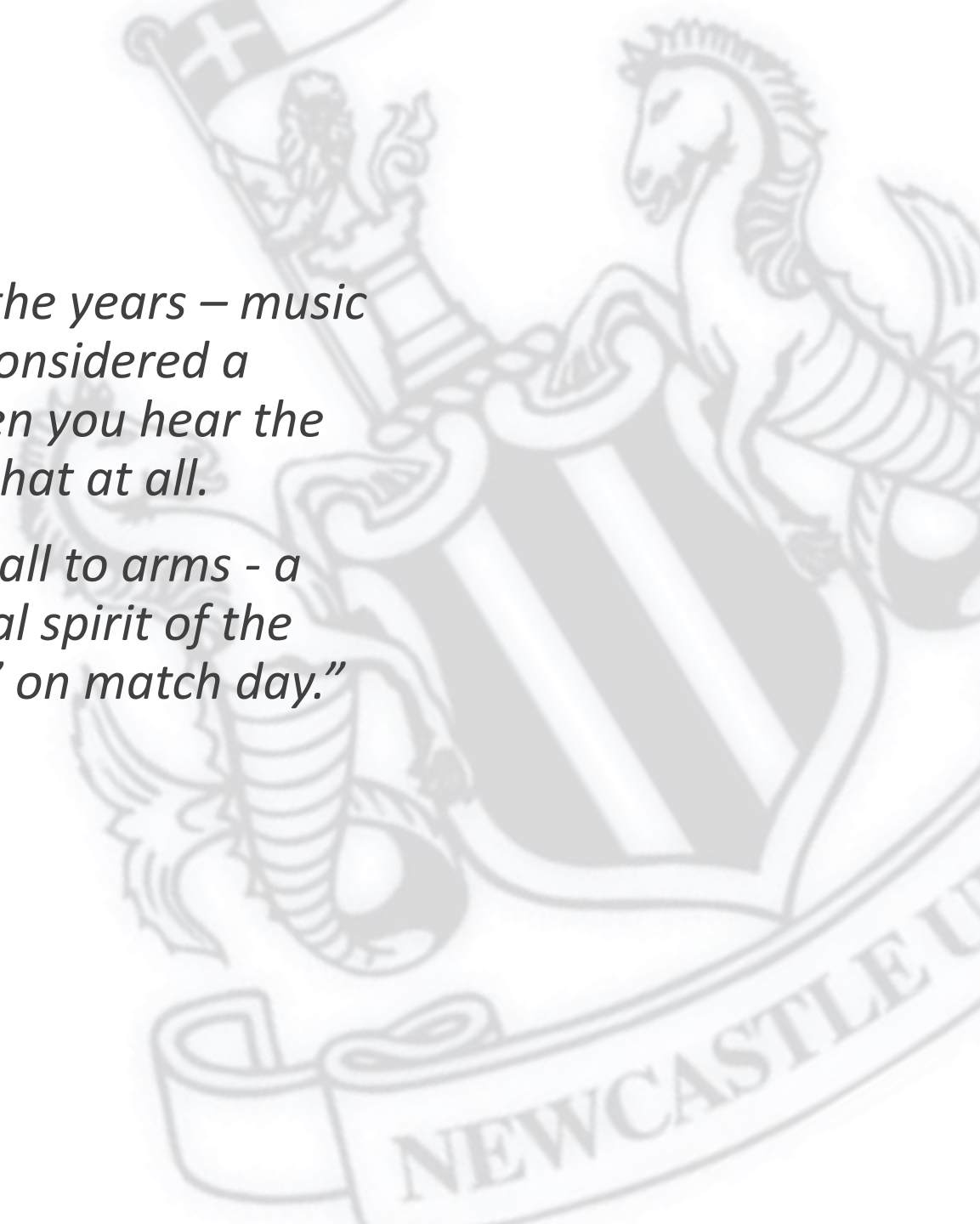


Changing room banter...

“There have been so many versions over the years – music hall, folk, heavy metal. It’s always been considered a lightweight, jaunty, novelty song, but when you hear the fans chanting it at the match, it isn’t like that at all.

In the Fans’ Version, it is reinvented as a call to arms - a Northern anthem which captures the tribal spirit of the beautiful game and the roars at St James’ on match day.”

– Alan Fish



Team sheet



Click names for further information



Man of the match

Many thanks to the thousands of supporters who have collectively influenced this project.

Special thanks to the supporters clubs:

Wor Hyem 1982 and **Gallowgate Flags**

who have given their time to help breathe life into this project.

