

Cambridge Fans United



"Uniting Our Community"

April 2011

# AMBER NEWS

FREE TO MEMBERS

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Issue 8

## Point at York ensures safety

### Jez's young U's finish job

Jez George and his young Cambridge United team have completed the task given to them on February 1<sup>st</sup> after Martin Ling was sacked and kept the U's in the Blue Square Bet Premier. Safety was achieved with one match to spare and without having to rely on other teams doing us any favours. Jez took over as Caretaker Manager after a disastrous run of results which saw United win only three League matches in three months and concede 19 goals in five matches. Despite having 3

players recalled to their parent clubs and two long term injuries Jez has always been positive and

managed to install spirit, passion and commitment into the team. The permanent position of Manager is still to be sorted but Jez's term of office has taken on legendary status and to a lot of people a Cambridge United without Jez George working in some capacity is unthinkable.



## Chairman Praises Trust Run Club

Club Chairman Paul Barry has again used AFC Wimbledon as an example of how a football club should be run. After inviting CFU to "look at the financial viability of creating a Community Trust to effectively take over the ownership and running of the club" and stating

"Newport County and AFC Wimbledon (both Trust run clubs) are examples of clubs who have an infectious atmosphere and the spirit to carry them forward, leading to overachievement. This club must aim to do the same" at the club AGM in January Paul said in his programme notes "Wimbledon are a shining example of what can be achieved with everybody pulling in the same direction and working hard".

At the time of writing its unclear if the club is still for sale or if any large investor has come forward but CFU are still working hard on the viability of creating a Community Trust to be guardians of Cambridge United's future.

## CFU to up CRC SPONSORSHIP

After being Match Day, Shirt and Programme sponsors for CRC and also Player sponsor for goalkeeper Martin Trunca for the 2010/11 season CFU have agreed to increase their financial involvement in CRC by more than 30%. CFU Chairman Dave Matthew-Jones said "We see CRC as a vital part of the long term future of Cambridge United, the numbers and quality of young players breaking into the first team this season is clear for all to see and emphasizes the importance of having vibrant youth set up. We are delighted to be able to increase our level of sponsorship and would urge any potential sponsors that maybe can't afford first team sponsorship, to consider sponsoring CRC, it really is good value and you know you will be helping young players forge a career in the game."



## TEN YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG

As most people know this season was the Tenth anniversary of Cambridge Fans United. Back in 2000 the Trust was formed with the aim to give fans a voice in the football club and with the objective of making Cambridge United an important part of the local community as well as providing financial and practical support to the club. All of this goes hand in hand with helping to secure the future of Cambridge United for the benefit of generations to come.

### TOP TEN CFU ACHIEVEMENTS

**1 The Voice of the Fans** Through CFU and the Fans Elected Director the fans have a representative on the Cambridge United board.

**2 Support in times of crises** £100,00 raised for the Bridge the Gap campaign helped save the club from liquidation.

**3 Community Links** CFU has given financial and administration support for the Smile Scheme bringing many groups in touch with Cambridge United.

**4 Junior U's** CFU has financed and administered the Junior U's scheme brining in over 2,000 members.

**5 Leading the Way** CFU have given support advice and guidance to other clubs trust's including Peterborough United and Cambridge City.

**6 Expanding the Fanbase** CFU introduced the South Stand Initiative which has seen thousands of new people coming to matches.

**7 Stars of the Future** For the past ten years CFU has sponsored both the Youth Development Scheme and the CRC team.

**8 Helping Out** CFU members freely donate time services and skills in many roles around the club.

**9 Fundraising** Beer Festivals, Football Tournaments, Quiz Nights and DVD's are among the many CFU schemes.

**10 Cambridge Til I Die Book** Another CFU fund raiser which also helps local schools.

This year (with the VP Club, Flack & Chapman and Teversham Engineering) CFU have helped Cambridge United with finance to repair the foot bridges into the Habbin Stand and provide office equipment for the club offices. We have also taken up fan's issues on safety, tickets and pricing with Histon and Tamworth football clubs. In October CFU and Cambridge United Supporters Club arranged for the away match at Fleetwood to be shown on the big screen in the supporters club. CFU organized brought two United legends back together when Roy McFarland and Paul Wanless were re-united for a very well attended Sportsman's Dinner in December.

CFU are continuing to meet and consult with Grosvenor on the location and development of the proposed new stadium, whilst also listening to Fan's views.

*The New Stadium situation is likely to be progressing in the coming months.*

**NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN CFU**

*Make your voice heard*  
Tel. 07957 344005

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## Community Matters

This season has seen Cambridge Fans United become even more involved in community matters. Through Trust Board Member Nick Parker CFU were very active in the Kick It Out, anti-racism campaign. The week had a strong community focus and celebrated the contribution made to football by black, Asian and other ethnic minorities, whilst continued the call to challenge racism.

CFU and the Club teamed up with the Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) in the "Lets Kick Racism Out of Football" campaign which ran from 14-26 October.

CFU had for their part invited Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum as their guests to the match against Barrow.

Supporters joined the rest of British Football in distributing information, stickers and badges prior to the match to re-affirm the commitment of Cambridge United Football Club and Cambridge Fans United to oppose all forms of racial and gender prejudice, intolerance and abuse.

Nick has also been very active with the Level Playing Field scheme which is a campaign by the National association of Disabled Supporters. Nick teamed up with Rev. Stuart Wood (Club Chaplain), Helen Dyson (Cambridge United Leaning Centre), Warren Wilson (Supporter) and Cam Sight (The Local Blind Charity) to provide audio descriptive commentary and the necessary equipment for ten blind or partially sighted supporters to enjoy the Forest Green match in March. The group will be looking at the accessibility, experience and enjoyment of attending Cambridge United matches for supporters with particular needs and we will be appealing to our fan base for volunteers and of course the funding of the necessary training and equipment. Any who feels they may be able to sponsor or help please contact Nick Parker at [cfuinbox@btinternet.com](mailto:cfuinbox@btinternet.com) or [nick.parker56@googlemail.com](mailto:nick.parker56@googlemail.com).

## FOCUS ON MARTIN TRUNCA

Cambridge Fans United sponsored CRC goalkeeper Martin Trunca joined the youth scheme from Charlton Athletics' Academy where he had

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been for three years. CFU spoke to Martin

and talked about football, sport, family and much more. The following was in a recent CRC programme.

CFU- Martin, we understand your father was a Basketball player for his country, Lithuania. So how come you are playing Football, with your height surely you could play Basketball too? Martin-I'd been kicking a ball around since I was really small and one day after school I noticed a sign on a lamp post advertising football trials, so I went along and joined the team. I've been playing football ever since. CFU-Which teams have you played for?

Martin- I started at Seymour Villa, that was my first team and I then moved to Beckenhall Town, Broley and was then spotted by a Charlton Scout and offered trials.

CFU-What was it like at Charlton's Academy?

Martin-Really good, I learnt a lot from their Goalkeeper coach and also had the opportunity to train with their first team. I did a lot of technical work there which really helped me develop as a keeper.

CFU- Why a Goalkeeper and not an outfield player?

Martin- I started as a centre back because I was always tall but when no one wanted to go in goal. I went in and was quite good so the manager kept me in goal and I've developed from there.

CFU-We know that you are Lithuanian, when did your family come to this country?

Martin I moved here when I was two. CFU- How is your family made up and

what do they do?

Martin- I have a Mum, Dad and younger Brother. My Dad is a Dry

Lining Specialist, My Mum is a Fitted Bedroom Designer and my Brother plays Basketball for London.

CFU- So your young Brother is following in your Father's footsteps? Martin- Yes, he's really good at Basketball, I do play a bit as a means to keep fit in my spare time but football is my first love.

CFU- So what else do you do to help relax?

Martin- Like most players I love playing on the Playstation, my favourite games are FIFA and COD:MW2. I also listen to R&B music.

CFU- Cambridge Fans United has agreed to sponsor you this year, what does that mean to you?

Martin- It's great to have a sponsor and someone as interested as CFU are in my progress. I've learnt that they are the supporter trust so it's good to have someone connected to the club and the supporters interested in me.

I hope to get the chance to show what I can do and will be working hard to get that opportunity.

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