

Cambridge Fans United



"Uniting Our Community"

January 2012

AMBER NEWS

FREE TO MEMBERS

Cambridge Fans United



"Uniting Our Community"

Issue 12

U's Still On The UP!

Progress Made On & Off Field

With just over half of this season's League programme completed Cambridge United are in 8th place in the Blue Square Bet Conference Premier, just three places and points away from a Play-Off position. Jez George's young squad has also reached the third round of the FA Trophy, which equals the Club's previous best in that competition.

Compared with last January, when the U's were languishing just above the relegation zone and seemingly in free fall having won only three of the last eleven matches, this represents considerable progress.



This season's record of 28 wins and 12 draws earning 46 points gives a 54% achievement rate. Last season's total of 50 points represented a 36% achievement rate!

Things are also looking positive off the pitch with the playing budget being cut by 25 % and overall losses 40% down on last season. With Simon Brown and Conal Platt leaving, all the contractual issues from the previous regime have been resolved. Jez has worked wonders on reducing the number of high earning players, long term injury victim Adam Miller being the only high earner left. Keiran Murtagh and Ryan Charles have been loaned to Working and Newport County respectively, leaving the Club with a rather thin playing squad of 20. Jez said "with the four players leaving this month we have created the option of new signings in this transfer window" and "if we can complete deals for the players we have indentified at the right financial package, we will. But we won't break the budget, go over the wage cap or chase the dream. £60,000 transfer fees



and £1,000 a week wages are for other clubs". Jez went on to say "we have talented youngsters who will improve and

if we can add more of the same at the right price the future is bright". Paul Barry and the Board had the vision

to appoint Jez last February and the courage to set realistic budgets and stick to them. This must bode well for the future of Cambridge United and go some way in preventing us becoming another Darlington, Kettering, Rushden or Chester etc.

2011....Another Busy Year for C F U

Back in January last year Cambridge United Chairman Paul Barry announced that the Club was for sale and invited CFU to open dialogue with him on "the possibility of forming and running a Community Club".

CFU responded by looking carefully at the option, talking to other Fans Trust Clubs and drawing up a package for a Community Club that would involve other Fans and Community groups and also local businesses. Members gave the Trust Board a mandate for this by a vote at the AGM last January.

Last year also saw CFU increase it's sponsorship of both CRC and Cambridge United. Not only are CFU matchday Sponsors for CRC but now also sponsor three of the youth team's players and have taken over the production of the matchday programme. 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 is there for all to see and emphasizes the importance of having a vibrant youth set up. We are delighted to be able to increase our level of sponsorship for the youngsters. For the first team we are kit sponsors for Rossi Jarvis.



A major improvement on communication this year has been the launch of the new website. This has been down to the hard work and enthusiasm of Trust Board Member John Bilboa. The site features daily news links to all the local media sites including, every Thursday, a video link to the *Cambridge News* interview with Jez George. John



has also set up a Forum, Facebook and Twitter pages and an on-line shop which not only includes



lots of CFU merchandise but also the opportunity to purchase Match Tickets on-line. There are also lots of opportunities to tell us what you think with regular surveys and chances for members to add their own stories and photos. Visit

www.cambridgefansunited.org

CFU members have been asked to join the Football Club's Centenary Celebrations Committee and are very much involved in the organizing of various events and functions to help Fans celebrate 100 years of Abbey/Cambridge United including a soon to be launched Centenary website. In August CFU organized a 'Meet The Players' evening where new and existing players were introduced to the Fans. Towards the end of last season CFU provided the finance for the Football Club to repair the pedestrian bridges into the Habbin Stand, thus ensuring regular supporters access to their normal spot on the terraces and the Club didn't lose any matchday revenue.

In November CFU Trust Board Member Dave Doggett was appointed onto the board of Cambridge United. Dave, a former Network Rail executive from Oakington, is a life time supporter of the U's and despite



spending most of his working life living in York always had a season ticket and managed to get to most games home and away. On joining the board Dave commented "This club's success was built on the unity of the fans, board, staff and players and we must revive that spirit now. My only agenda is to help the club and it's fans become successful on and off the field. Dave will join Jez George, Fans Elected Director Colin Proctor and Club Officials in answering Fans questions at the CFU AGM on 23 January at 7.30pm in the Supporters Club. Members will get the chance to vote on new rules and board members.

Cambridge Fans United



"Uniting Our Community"

January 2012

AMBER NEWS

FREE TO MEMBERS

Cambridge Fans United



"Uniting Our Community"

Issue 12

TRUMPINGTON IS ONLY OPTION

Ten Becomes One!

In a recent *Cambridge News* article Ed Skeates, projects director of Grosvenor, the Club's landlord and developer of the new ground, confirmed the original ten sites for the stadium had been whittled down to one. Trumpington is now the only option on the table currently for the £10 million, 8,000-seater ground, because the owners of the second choice location, the development known as NIAB 2 west of Histon Road and south of the A14, have pulled out. Skeates went on to say "I do not underestimate the difficulties which would have to be overcome to gain consent for the green belt site between Trumpington and the M11".

The site is on former agricultural land adjacent to Grosvenor's Trumpington development of 1,200 homes which already has planning permission.

CFU are continuing to work closely with Grosvenor, with results of the travel survey conducted by CFU due to be released soon. CFU Vice-Chairman, Rob



Osbourn who, along with other Trust Board Members, attends regular meetings with Grosvenor said "Grosvenor are being

very fair and listening to our ideas and concerns. It is hoped that a planning application will be made within the year".

The Cambridge Community Stadium and sporting village would include training areas, five-a-side pitches, and educational facilities.

For more details visit

www.cambridgefansunited.org

The Annual Cambridge United PROGRAMME FAIR

Sunday 26th February 2012

11am-3pm

Cambridge United Supporters Club

R-Costings Abbey Stadium

Newmarket Road

Cambridge CB5 8LN

Admission 50p Adults, Children Free

All enquires to

Martin Jordan

01223 413210 or 07867 870930

COMMUNITY WORK GIVES FANS A DIFFERENT VIEW!

After lots of planning and hard work a CFU and CamSight joint venture is up and running. The scheme, organized by



Trust Board Member Nick Parker, allows blind and partially sighted supporters from both teams to listen to a live audio-

commentary via short wave radio within the R-Costing Abbey Stadium. A team of volunteers have been trained to give 'real time' commentary so that visually impaired fans know what's happening at the same time as everyone else, so they can react at the same moment.

Nick explained "Part of our community remit is to have things like this in plans for the new stadium, so we are as inclusive as we possibly can be. "It's about fulfilling the community role of the club; we have to do things that confirm that, not just talk about it".

Fellow Trust Board member and budding commenter James Taylor summed up "It's actually an honour to offer this service at our club".

Commentary is available for every match and can be booked by contacting Nick on 07929 589925

10th CFU FIVE A SIDE

Trophy Stays At Home!

Ten teams competed in the 10th CFU/KKSC 5-a-side football tournament on Friday 30th December.

Kelsey Kerridge made home advantage count to win the event.



CFU Organiser Terry Wilby said

"There were a lot of very tight games, the teams that started well seemed to fall away in the latter stages of the event. SK Team from

Slovakia were able to talk in their own language, I hope that what they said to the referees was complimentary! Dark Horses come from Reading, their overnight stay didn't seem to help them very much."

CFU Chairman Dave Matthew-Jones commented "The players seem to enjoy

this tournament, 8 of the 10 teams come back year after year, and I enjoy watching the games. It is played in competitive manner, while still remaining friendly".

CFU would like to thank referees Richard Nichols, Ian Pascu, Alan Davies and Stuart Gilby for keeping order on the pitches; Nigel, Brian, Dave and Terry for organising the tournament and helping on the day; and Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre for hosting the event.

Meet

CFU-

Trust Board Member,

Carol Looker,

Carol is a well known



face to most United fans. She works tirelessly for the football club and it's fans. Away travel, working 2-3 days a week in the office and organizing raffles at every opportunity are just a few of her jobs.

First U's Match- Rochdale (H) 1970

Favorite Player- John Taylor and Josh Coulson.

Most Memorable Match- Winning play-off final at Wembley and semi-final at Maidstone.

Best Away Ground- Roker Park, Sunderland. Their fans were so friendly and exchanged scarfs. We were celebrating reaching the play offs and they were playing in the FA Cup Final the following week.

Worst Away Ground- Cardiff City, they threw bricks at us. Farsley Celtic, where a boy continually blew a horn in our ears and the stewards wouldn't stop him.

Why Did You Join CFU- To help secure the future of Cambridge United.

Where Do You Think United Will Be In Ten Years Time- Established back in the Football League

WANTED

INFORMATION

ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF

CAR MASCOT

LAST SEEN IN CFU CUPBOARD

UNDER MAIN STAND

Please contact Brian Thorby

07983 640484