Cambridge Fans United

CFU

"Uniting Our Community"

AMBER NEWS

Special "Ides of March" Edition

March 2019



"The natural state of the football fan is bitter disappointment, no matter what the score."
Nick Hornby

Opening Switchback,

As a Cambridge fan, I am of course very familiar with my favourite team keeping me on tenterhooks until the last seconds of a game, hoping rather than believing, that we will hang on either to a point or a slender lead. This season has been no different ,despite the off field problems of financial mismanagement and the problems created by a playing budget a good deal less than we would have hoped for but that's another story.

The away performance at Grimsby was timely and showed us all what Mr Hepburn-Murphy is capable of, scoring a fine goal and inspiring panic in defenders with his blistering pace. No coincidence then that he was clogged relentlessly by less talented defenders. We have seen a string of fairly poor officials this season. 'Bigger' clubs must worry that, when they lend out talented starlets, they will get little protection from referees when the division's hatchet men get after them. We have played a lot of good football, in bursts, this season but League Two makes it very difficult when some limited and very physical players get away with murder.

Fans became very impatient during the home draws against Oldham Athletic and Crewe Alexandra. I felt that this was pretty unfair, given the commitment and non-stop effort displayed by the U's. Alas, many fans see victory, superiority and high class football as a god given right rather than something we get once a decade. We knew what we signed up for and Crewe, in particular, looked like a very good side to me. Their subsequent results have shown that. Oldham were obviously well motivated by Paul Scholes, a real gentleman, who went to considerable lengths to mingle and had photographs taken with fans. What a pity that Oldham's owner didn't appreciate what he had and leave him to get on with it. That particular saga isn't over yet.



It seems that we were unlucky not to win at Carlisle. 320 of our dedicated fans went to that game and watched a really gritty performance. If only we scored as many goals as our play, at its best, justifies.

And then Colchester. They were better than us, clearly. We held them well and could have maybe gone ahead in a much better second half. It was a shame that Lewis was injured so quickly. We had begun to look better after he replaced the clearly unfit Gary Deagan. After his injury, we didn't look quite the same side. I am sure that a dominant midfielder will be high up on Colin Calderwood's shopping list. And they scored on 96 minutes. Deflating, disappointing but not unjust if we are honest.

And there were boos at the end, pessimism, disappointment that we haven't climbed nearer to safety. There are a few teams in danger now. I would rather be a United fan than a Crawley or Yeovil supporter but it will go to the wire. I suspect that Notts County have got what it takes to escape but not Macclesfield – but we will see. I believe that we will stay up but a vital summer beckons.

Some Comment from Our FED

I have supported Cambridge United since 1970 during which time I have seen some great times and also some low ones. One thing I have never done is stopped believing in the club and my love of the Abbey Stadium.

I was originally a member of the CUSA (Cambridge United Supporters Association)



and a founder member of Cambridge Fans United in 2000. CFU is part of the Supporters Direct movement. I was Chair for much of that time until 2016

It was one of the proudest moments of my life when I became a director of Cambridge United. It was even better to be elected as FED.

I have since been given the role of Supporters Liaison Officer - Supporter Liaison Officers (or SLOs for short) are a relatively new feature in the UK and this is where you'll be able to find out all about them: **slo@fsf.org.uk**

I was also given the task of helping Ian Darler and Mick Brown to maintain the Abbey Stadium and prepare it before and after matches. We have built a team of volunteers with a wide range of skills and knowledge to carry out this work. We plan, source the materials and carry out the work at the lowest cost we can. The work carried out is ensuring that the Abbey Stadium can still be used as stadium while discussions take place concerning the re-development

The ELF will carry out one mystery shopper trip to determine the experience for away fans and two for home supporters. We have gained the Family Excellence award during that time.



I can be found on match days around the ground or can be contacted by phone mobile 07703 274034 .

There are measures being taken to improve the communications between fans and club see the Fans Parliament Scoping work plan on our website under Club - CUSP (Cambridge United Supporters Panel).
I can be also be contacted via email Info@Cambridge-United.co.uk or using the

contact form below
Telephone 01223 566500

Post Cambridge United Football Club
The Abbey Stadium
Newmarket Road
Cambridge
CB5 8LN

There is a shirt raffle being organsed to help raise funds for United supporter Scott ‘Phil Ming’ James who was recently diagnosed with lymphoma cancer.



Tickets for the raffle can be purchased at the match tomorrow from the CFU outlet.

You can also donate via the crowdfunding page http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/scottjames

Ian fundraising page --

https://www.cambridgecharityfundraisers.com/blog/john-taylor-helps-to-raise-260-pounds-for-cambridge-charity-fundraisers



CFU AGM

"If I've learned one thing in life, it's stand for something or you'll fall for anything."



Like many, I am looking forward to hearing Colin Calderwood expressing his hopes for next season at our AGM in the Supporters' Club on April 8th. Amongst all the reporting back, there will be no doubt be comment about the audit and the future of CFU. On the last matter, I am sure that there will be those rubbing their hands that the arrival of the Fans Parliament will be the beginning of the end for CFU. I don't buy that, of course, partly because I feel that the two organisations, although they represent fans and want to see our club do as well as it can, have a different brief. The Parliament (CUSP) will be mostly concerned with facilities, fans' welfare, safety and the day to day operation.

CFU, in my opinion, has one major function and that is to hold those who run the club to account, whoever they are at any particular time. Of course, currently, the shareholders can pursue a similar function but they are not organised or united. Indeed, it took CFU, as a coherent organisation, to coordinate the demand for an independent audit. Even if there were no shareholders or Fans' Elected Director (if we ever had a different kind of owner) we will always need a fans' organisation which has the capacity to put forward the views of supporters in a way which is likely to be heard. The voice of reason must always have its place but we need to increase our membership to be more effective. That means making what we stand for clear.

Our members need to know that the club have answered all our questions during the audit process. At the end of the season the shareholders will discover the scale of our losses and what cost cutting has already taken place.

The volunteers, who give up so much of their time to keep our tired old stadium open, have been organised by CFU. Ian Darler has frequently said how much he depends on them. Alan Burge has painted almost everything that doesn't move. We must make people aware of this and involve more people in it. Involvement in a club is a wonderful thing and real fans love to contribute.

Finally, I have heard people say that organisations like CFU only thrive in a crisis – but I hope that we don't have to have one to be seen as relevant.



We still have elements in our crowd who think it's OK to abuse players and shout racist and homophobic comments. Last Saturday a bunch of drunks made a steward's life a misery and appeared to get away with it. Complacent we may have been but there is never a time to justify complacency.

Preserved in Amber: George Harris Penalty, 2 May 1970

The previous night the Abbey Stadium had been filled to overflowing by 14,000 – probably more – spectators anxious to see FA Cup winners Chelsea parade their trophy and take on the U's. The Friday night match had been arranged as part of the deal that had taken the raw, young Ian Hutchinson to Stamford Bridge a couple of years earlier.

At 3pm the following day, however, there was serious business to conduct.



If United could draw their home game against mid-table Margate, a second successive Southern League championship would probably be theirs. If they were to win, the title would be a certainty and the club's case for election to the Football League would be strengthened even further.

As 5,298 tense spectators filed on to the terraces, the eleven men chosen by manager Bill Leivers to fulfil their dreams sat in the dressing room, waiting for the signal to run out and set about their work. All but two of them – left back Colin Meldrum and inside forward John McKinven, in for Brian Grant and John Gregson – had started the Chelsea game just a few hours before. Mercifully, United's first string had had to play a mere 45 minutes against the Blues before being replaced by the visitors' reserves.

Facing Margate were goalkeeper Rodney Slack; defenders Jimmy Thompson, Dennis Walker, Terry Eades and Meldrum; schemers Mel Slack (no relation to Rodney) and McKinven; and forwards Roly Horrey, Mal Lindsay, Bill Cassidy and George Harris.

The previous season's finale had seen the championship shield secured with a 3-0 win over Kettering Town, and ace marksman Tony Butcher had kick-started a stunning hat-trick with a headed goal in the 45th minute. But this time U's supporters had to wait much longer for the opener.

Margate were, to say the least, unadventurous. Seemingly content to go home with a 0-0 draw, they packed the defence and frustrated United's normally free-scoring forwards, who watched in horror as efforts by Cassidy and Horrey rebounded off the woodwork. Then, in the 80th minute, with fans' fingernails bitten to the quick, the visitors conceded a penalty.

The man chosen for the task of converting it was left winger George Harris, who was on his way to a goals total for the season of 35 from just 47 appearances. The suspense was palpable as he stepped up … and beat goalkeeper Garry Steel.

Harris later told how he, feeling the pressure of the situation, had at first thought of taking the penalty quickly, only to recall an occasion when he had rushed a spot kick and missed. 'This time I waited for some seconds,' he said. 'Then I moved the ball and settled again, but boy was I glad to see the ball hit the back of the net.'

The tension broken, pandemonium reigned and the cheers increased in volume a couple of minutes later when Bill Cassidy's clinching goal ensured the shield would stay at the Abbey.

It wasn't long before the players were parading the huge shield around the ground, fighting their way through the crowds that had flocked on to the pitch.

Then it was back to the dressing room, where the champagne corks popped and thoughts turned to the Football League's annual general meeting in June, when United's determined bid for election would be debated.

A Month of Matches



A month is a long time in football they say. A lot has gone on at the abbey since we've read February's Valentines Special newsletter. I often liken following the U's to being on a rollercoaster ride. It's always full of twists and turns & ups and downs. Granted this season hasn't been the most exciting of rides though. The good news is the fans still seem very

much in love with the man in charge sat in the dugout on a Saturday afternoon.

The Abbey, our spiritual home, is slowly becoming a fortress once more, with our back four now attending the Colin Calderwood School of defending. We've managed to only concede 1 goal at home since 9th February. This has mainly being down to the more agile Dimitar Mitov in the sticks in replacement for David Forde & the terrific Centre back pairing of George 'The Giraffe' Taft & Greg Taylor. We haven't set the world alight with results and are not quite clear of sinking into relegation yet, but the ship is steadying and things are looking positive with Colin steering at the helm. We're now six unbeaten at the abbey, that's almost play off form isn't it?

We started February with a home win against Port Vale, thanks to an Amoo Strike. We then battled with a goal less draw against Tranmere, who claimed to have the league's leading hitman in James Norwood. Although he had some clever moves he failed to escape Tafty's back pocket all afternoon. After taking a share of the spoils, the U's hit the road with 3 consecutive away games.



Win your home games and draw your away games and you'll be ok they say. Shame that we've struggled all season on the journey away from home then isn't it? Most of my friends are armchair glory hunting fans and think you're mad when you tell them you are trekking across country on a freezing cold & damp February Tuesday night to a rearranged fixture watching the U's at the exotic Johnny Rocks Stadium against Cheltenham. It was to be a rocky horror show of a performance from the boys in amber though!

Colin the Tactician made 5 changes to his side 203 Hearty U's fans were left puzzled by the changes and can only assume that some of our boys needed a rest and Colin wanted to try a few things. The loanee Kids of Doyle Hayes & Coulson made their first start for the U's. Also Paul 'Pablo' Lewis and Louis John were brought out from the wilderness of the Clare college training pitches and thrown in for a start. United started brightly but soon struggled when going a goal down after 20 minutes with an own goal from Tafty. Things got worse for United when Jake Carroll was given his marching orders for wanting to be a Goal keeper and handling a ball on the line on 55 minutes. Ex U's player Billy Waters looked lively and caused issues all night and the locals certainly were singing his praises and spoke of him in high regard. Maybe he's the one that got away for us?

The U's then travelled further afield on the Saturday to Somerset to visit Yeovil town, Colin & the boys were confident of recording that first away win since that great day out at Notts County in front of a bumper crowd back at the start of January. Another

exciting Loanee Alex Jones, who apparently is a ‘good finisher’, was handed his first U’s start, but it wasn’t to be a fairytale start for Alex or the U’s boys with the Glover’s stealing 3 points & sneaking a 1-0 win.

The U’s Fan’s had certainly being clocking up the miles this month with the third away game on the bounce. Was anyone else starting to get withdrawal symptoms from the abbey?). This time it was a trip to the seaside town of Cleethorpes to Blundell Park, and Grimbsy. If you have been to Grimsby before, you’ll know the only good thing about the place is the superb Fish and Chips, especially the ones on the main road just up by the ground!.

The U’s took to the pitch draped in an all Amber kit that had them looking like giant bananas. They should wear that kit every game because by the end of the match it was easily one of the best performances from the U’s away from home this season. Thereafter the U’s made 3 changes to the line-up and this time the tactics paid off. George ‘the Giraffe’ Taft leapt high to head home in 1st half and United dominated for most of the game, playing some attractive and exciting football. Our Olympic sprinter (Hepburn Murphy) was brought on and Grimsby couldn’t handle his lightning pace. We’d being waiting a bit of time for the boy to find the net and he didn’t disappoint with his first for the club, a well taken finish, which sent the 165 U’s fans wild & moved the U’s 9 points clear of safety.



Back to the abbey & the Visit of Oldham and the Paul Scholes Circus arrived in town. Fans, young & old, were armed with their autograph books, looking to get the signature of the legendary Ginger Assassin Midfielder. It was a windy encounter at the abbey & chilly for even the hardest of souls stood on the terraces. The U’s remained unchanged from their faultless away win at Grimsby 7 days earlier. Heavy wind aided Oldham’s goal in the first half and United didn’t really challenge going forward offensively. Colin must have given them the hair dryer treatment at HT, as our boys came out guns blazing in the restart with Jevani Brown equalizing with a superbly well taken goal. The U’s were unlucky not to take all 3 points late on but settled for a point & moved 10 points clear to safety. A visit to fortress Abbey must have scared former England International, Mr. Scholes. He resigned as Oldham manager less than a week after his trip to the U’s, leaving Oldham after just 31 days in the post. They say Football management is a tough life. Scholes, a boyhood fan of Oldham, was left bemused as at training he struggled to understand his players’ reluctance to smash the ball into the top corner from 30 yards, while in the boardroom his requests for a war chest were downgraded to requests for any kind of chest.

After Oldham the U’s were host to another team from the Frozen North on our last midweek game under the shining lights. Both sides started brightly and it was entertaining with a high tempo to the game. United looked up for getting at Crewe,

but this tempo soon fizzled away & Crewe themselves started to look dangerous. After the restart United Failed to create that spark and make things happen going forward and were lucky late on when Crewe should have buried a hatful of chances, that even my granny would of scored late on. The boys showed great character to grind out a point and clean sheet though something which wouldn't have maybe happened under Joe Dunne a few months ago. Bury away got postponed last Saturday due to a bit of light rain, the boys got a rest and are refreshed and hopefully chomping at the bit to notch another away win on the border at Carlisle away!.



Overall things still aren't pretty, the U's are inconsistent on the road and are struggling on and off offensively but under CC I believe he's building us a team that will be hard to break down and beat. We need really 2 more wins to stay safe which is achievable. Let's be honest, there's a lot worse below us. There's been a vast improvement in performances overall and it will be exciting to see what CC can achieve in close season ready for next year once he's shipped some dead wood out and made a few changes.

The Future's bright, The Future's Amber

Ben Phillips



QUIZ ANSWERS

1) Graham Taylor- Lincoln City, Kevin Keegan-Scunthorpe United.
2) Dennis Walker, Dion Dublin, Luke Chadwick.
3) David Bairstow
4) Arnold Sidebottom
5) Hereford United (Div 3 1973-74 season), Shrewsbury Town F A Cup January 1979, Birmingham City Division 2 November 1979.

6) Roger Avery, Richard Key.
7) United had not conceded a goal at home for a record number of minutes and an award was made, in the second half 4 goals were conceded in a 4-1 defeat!
8) Billy Manuel
9) Jamie Murray, Antonio Murray.
10) Micah Hyde
11) Dions father was believed to have been a member of the group Showaddywaddy but contrary to popular belief this is not the case.
12) The latest additions are Harvey Coulson and Josh Coulson. Mel Slack and Rodney Slack do not count as Rodney did not play in the Football league era!
William Arnold March 2019

This was my communication with Pat Morgan and Andrew Bennett for the last question:

Subject:Re: FA Cup /Same name

To which you can add:

Adams
Anderson
Atkins
Byrne
Campbell
Charles
Clark
Collins
Daniels
Duffy
Graham
Heathcote
Herbert
Howard
Howell
Hunt
Johnson
Lawrence
Massey
McMahon
Nicholls



Palmer
Phillips
Reed
Richards
Robinson
Rush
Thompson
Watson
Williams
Williamson

Long list, eh?! **AB**



Middleton
Eades
Benjamin
Brown
Hughes
Joseph
Jones
Cassidy
Russell
Simpson
O'Neill
Davies
Turner
Wilson
Austin
Bartlett
Finney
Garner
Harris
Keane (if you count Pat)
Miller
Page
Pugh
Ross

PM

William Arnold

COMMUNITY TRUST NEWS – FEBRUARY

SambaFest - a sensational drumming performance by 150 school children

SambaFest is organised by Cambridgeshire Music, which runs music education and music-related initiatives for young people and families across the county, along with the Cambridge United Community Trust – the charitable arm of Cambridge United FC. The project is funded by Arts Council England.

The performance at half time during the match between Cambridge and Colchester on March 30th was the culmination of a series of both workshops with musicians and football skills sessions with coaching staff from CUCT, aiming to help improve young people's self-esteem, co-ordination and agility through a combination of music and sport. The participants were aged seven to 19 and were from five Cambridgeshire primary schools – Mayfield, St Luke's, Millfield (Littleport), Rackham (Witchford) and Ely St Mary's - plus Cottenham Village College. Both Mayfield Primary School and Cottenham Village College have specialist units that provide intensive support for students with hearing impairments. The SambaFest staff have also been working in close partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council Sensory Support Team to include visually impaired students.



Liza Field, Music Development Manager at Cambridgeshire Music, said that one of the aims of the SambaFest project was to help bridge that gap by enabling D/deaf and VI pupils to perform music alongside their peers. "Very few deaf students have access to music at school and many feel shut out from it," she said. "In fact, many of them can hear using hearing aids or cochlear implants, and they can also feel the vibrations of a samba drum. There is absolutely no reason why they should not be able to participate with their friends. Working with Teachers of the Deaf and Visually Impaired we wanted to ensure that this project was inclusive to all students with sensory needs."

"For all the students involved we want to use the power of music and the experience of performing in front of a crowd on match day to help them to develop more confidence, a sense of achievement, and self-belief. This sort of activity can have huge benefits for their wider development and education. "

Simon Wall, CUCT said: "This has been a great opportunity to work in partnership with Cambridgeshire Music on an exciting and unique project. As an organisation, we are constantly seeking new ways to engage with our local community, and SambaFest has certainly allowed us to achieve that aim!"

Simon Wall

We are justly proud of our Community Trust. The Community invests in its club and the Club invests in its community…..

Football According to Coconuts

“Smells of bygone days”

Tuesday nights in winter,
Radiant floodlights from the A45 seen.
Hoary mists rising from the common,
A players’ tunnel full of germolene.
Smells of bygone days.

Harry Habbin’s wonderful edifice,
Who’d dream it would end up in two.
St Bruno, Clan, Erinmore even,
Pipe tobacco smoke wafts all the way through.
Smells of bygone days.

Four o’clock on Saturday afternoon,
Ten minutes half time so five minutes in.
The boozers return late from the club behind,
Light and lager gob aroma and increase in the din.
Smells of bygone days.

Oh the supporters’ club hatch,
What a fine little thing.
Sweets, choccy bars and lots of Wrigley’s,
But pie, mushy peas and mint sauce are king.
Smells of bygone days.

“ Elfleda the Great - March 2019.”



Foul and Abusive

The expression of human-v-human discrimination in any form makes my stomach heave, the vomit rise in my gorge and my fury start to bubble.

Show me an indication of a belief that any race is superior to another, or intolerance of any culture, nationality, religion, skin colour, gender, sexual orientation or any other damn thing, and you make an enemy of me for life.

That's why I applauded Eric Cantona's assault on that racist Palace sponge in 1995. That's why I cheered Brendon Batson when, his ears assailed by a string of vile racial insults at Stockport in 1974, he lamped the loathsome perpetrator, Tony Coleman.

And that's why I admire the dignified Raheem Sterling and his black England teammates for their restrained reaction to the cacophony of racial abuse pouring out of the Montenegrin skies.

We've come a long way, thank God, since the days when monkey chants filled the Abbey air whenever a black player touched the ball.

Yet I still hear knuckle-draggers complaining about the number of non-white, or even non-English, players in a team. I still hear stories about racist remarks being made on the Abbey terraces while stewards stand by in complicit silence.

Ah, these purveyors of filth will say, but it's only banter.

Banter: oh, what a cartload of evil that seemingly innocuous term can conceal.

If you use racist language, you're a racist, you don't belong in civilised society and you're a pus-filled boil on United's face. Go home and fester in your midden.

The Terracist



And finally….

"For myself I am an optimist –
It does not seem to be much use to be anything else."
Winston Churchill

As ever, I am grateful to my contributors, and in particular Ben Phillips, for his excellent photographs. When I come to write the next issue we should know whether or not we have achieved league safety. I hope so. We are capable of putting up stern resistance away from home and, if we could win 2 of our next 3 remaining home games, we would surely be alright. We don't want to have to get 3 points at Macclesfield.

The same people who boo Reggie Lambe and Jake Carroll are now beginning to criticise Colin Calderwood in the same way that Shaun Derry and Joe Dunne were blamed for their lack of success. For me, anyone who wears our shirt or manages our team has my support while they are here. I have every confidence that Colin Calderwood will keep us up and give us much more to cheer next season if he is properly backed by the Board.

We'll see,

Andrew

Make a difference and join CFU.
Your opinions and contributions are always gratefully received.
acstephen@hotmail.com

[Deadline for next newsletter- March 27th]

United in Endeavour

