# CFU Newsletter

# January 2008

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CFU

CAMBRIDGE FANS UNITED

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## Chairman's Welcome

I would like to start by thanking you for your continued support of CFU during the past year. I also wish yourself and your family a Happy New Year.

Cambridge United begin 2008 in a stronger position now both on and off the pitch than they have done for many years.

The supporters have played a large part in this by their continued support both financially and vocally during the past 12 months.

The year started badly with humiliating defeats against York, Rushden & Diamonds and Altrincham. However since the CUFC EGM in March and the result that came from that evening seem to be pivotal in the turnaround of the club both on and off the pitch. The new investment provided by Paul Barry & Adrian Hanauer has provided the boost everyone at the club needed.

This season results have been very impressive, at the time of writing we have lost just the one game, and with a settled team, Jimmy Quinn and Alan Lewer under Lee Power's guidance have the nucleus of a squad which can hopefully lead us back to the Football League.

Off the pitch the appointment of Norman Gautrey as Chief Executive is one of the most important decisions the club has made in recent history. CFU have wanted to see Cambridge United run

properly as a business. CFU wants to see the losses cut and investment grown. We feel that Norman has the experience to see that through. Supporters want to see their money spent in the team on the pitch and no longer servicing overspending.

We also look to the conclusion of the New Year Promotion Fund and hoping that enough is raised to get Jimmy the players he needs, to help us get back to where we belong, in the football league.

Although the football club seems to be more settled on the field and behind the scenes, there is plenty of work still for CFU to do, particularly as we increase our links with the broader community.

Building for the future is as important as managing the present. CFU have backed the South Stand Initiative and also the start up of Junior U's. Both schemes have been extremely successful. The Junior U's in less than 12 months has attracted over 1000 youngsters and the percentage of these coming to matches is increasing.

They have also helped to build a feel good factor around the club and towards the club.

Help was also provided with the portacabins being repaired, the new Gym under the South Stand and creation of the new Supporters Bar behind the main stand

Our Youth Tournament is recognised as one of the leading youth tournaments in the region.

One our proudest achievement is to be the home match day sponsor for CRC this season. The scheme has already reaped rewards with Micheal Hyem, Robbie Willmott, Josh Coulson, Piers Wixon and Jordan Collins all winning full time contracts. The scheme is important to the club and it's future.

CFU also helped organise the First Abbey Beer Festival, held over 3 days at the end of the season. A success no doubt aided by the cheerful end of season!

We have also supported St Ives U's, Ladies football and Youth Development during the past 12 months. CFU helped organise the coaches to the Aldershot matches

Away from football, CFU have been building links with the wider community, and with local businesses. One such link is with Funky Funhouse, who has been kind enough to allow us to hold our Junior U's Christmas parties there. We are also looking at collecting boots and old Football Kits for Rwanda. We are also starting a scheme locally through the Smile Initiative targeted at the community locally.

Everyone should all be working towards one goal. We need to be back in the league and no longer financially dependent on anyone. We also need to continue to work towards owning our own ground again.

We are providing assistance and help across a wide range of areas within the club. The supporters have a vast range skills and experiences that should be harnessed. Skills in marketing, media and building are a few that come to mind.

Working in partnership while maintaining our right to question is important. We need to be independent, but at the same time ensure everything is being done to allow the club to harness it's potential. Building for the future together.

Once again thank you for all your support over the last 12 months, don't let it stop and hopefully next time I write we will be a Football League club once more.

*David Matthews-Jones*

*CFU Chairman*

## A428 U's Initiative

This initiative is to set up supporter groups along the A428 corridor which can work together under an 'umbrella' committee consisting of representatives of the various groups.

The first stage of this initiative is to set up supporter groups for Cambourne, St. Neots and Bedford. The aim of the groups will be to increase awareness of Cambridge United in their local areas, organise social / fund raising events and eventually run a minibus / coach to home games.

To make this initiative work we need the help and support from as many people as possible. If

you live in or around the Cambourne, St. Neots or Bedford areas and are willing to help or be part of a new supporters group, please contact the appropriate representative below.

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| **CAMBOURNE & BEDFORD:**<br>Graham Shipp<br>graham.shipp@btinternet.com<br>Tel. 01234-363097<br>Mobile: 07915 210334 |
| **ST. NEOTS**:<br>Paul Slater<br>paul@bororscum.wanadoo.co.uk<br>Tel. 01480 354223 |

## Working Together Towards a Brighter Future - The Junior U's

The Junior U's was launched by CFU, in partnership with the club, in February 2007. Since then we have seen membership grow to a staggering 1,050 – each of which receive a welcome pack upon joining, including a certificate, Junior U's wristband, welcome letter and membership card. All members will be entitled to a host of benefits until they're 16 years old, including discount from the club shop and away travel, free signed birthday card every year, £2 entry to every league match as well as access to the many exciting Junior U's events taking place over the course of the season.

We now have established partnerships with both Staples and the Funky Funhouse, Mercers Row (www.funkyfunhouse.com) which have enabled us to deliver the Junior U's. CFU are very proud to have been able to re-launch this important and integral part of Cambridge United Football Club. Introducing and affiliating new youngsters to the club is very important for our future.

We've shown what can be achieved by the club welcoming our involvement and working with us. We hope this continues going forward and we can work even closer together, to achieve even more and help the club realise it's potential in the coming years

**Will Jones – 500 Not Out**

Congratulations to CFU Committee member Will Jones. A NRE regular, Will recently celebrated his 500th consecutive U's match at the FA Trophy match against Kings Lynn.

## CFU/KKSC 5-a-side

If ever you needed a good excuse to escape family/kids/in-laws/shopping after Christmas then this is it!

The CFU/Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre Christmas 5-a-side Tournament is now in its 6th year, can you get a team to beat last years winners Trumpington Tornadoes?

Tornadoes beat Golden Eagles 2-1 in the final, with Reed United getting 3rd place after they beat Manor Park Rangers 3-0.

Organiser Terry Wilby said "*Many of the same teams come back year after year, whatever their playing standard they really seem to enjoy themselves*"

The format is 2 groups of 8 teams, the winners of each group play in the final with the runners up contesting 3rd place. It starts at noon on Friday 28th December 2007, and will finish by 5pm. £65 per team, which includes day membership at KKSC.

CFU are grateful to Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre for their continued support of this tournament, and to LimousineCuisine.com who have sponsored a night out for each of the 2 Group winners.

For more information or a registration form Terry Wilby on 01763 220457 or email terry.wilby@ntlworld.com

### Dates for your Diary

28th December – CFU/KKSC 5-a-Side
21st January – CFU AGM @ Supporters Club
28th January – CUFC AGM @ The Harris Suite.

## Summer Youth Tournament

CFU organised the 7th Annual Youth Tournament in August, which proved to be a great day in the sunshine for the teams participating. Approximately 700 children turned up from all over East Anglia and beyond to enjoy the day. Teams came mostly from the Cambridge area but there were teams coming from as far as Luton, Southend, Ipswich, and Norwich whilst the Sovereign Saints, managed by Cambridge United fan Paul Garnell, came all the way from Eastbourne. The Saints unfortunately didn't go home with any prizes but deserved one for making the journey across the UK for the day.

The winners of the individual groups were:

U8 – Tuddenham
U9 – Arbury Aces
U10 –West Wratting Youth
U11 – Harold Hill Youth
U12 - Ashingdon Youth B
U13 – Wisbech St Mary
U14 – Woodbridge
U15 – Hemingford Colts

Jimmy Quinn, and his assistant Alan Lewer, along with first team players, Stephen Reed, Mark Convey and Scott Rendell attended in the afternoon to watch some of the young talent and presented trophies to the winning teams and individual medals to the players. The teams were also able to have their photographs taken with the players.

Marvin the Moose was also in attendance and signing autographs, whilst many of the children also took the opportunity to join the Junior U's. The Teams at the event are also able to apply for free tickets to attend a match at the Abbey.