# AMBER NEWS

Cambridge Fans United

CFU

"Uniting Our Community"



# December 2014 Special 'Glad Tidings' Edition

If the tragic death of Phillip Hughes has shown us anything, it is that sport is a universal language which binds people from different lands, cultures and beliefs with a shared interest in something which is bigger than any of us. Real fans don't boo their team just because they lose, supporting your team doesn't mean hating those who support other teams and, more than anything, true fans expect endeavour and entertainment – with the promise of glory. It saddens me that there is no relationship between the talent show which is now the Premiership and the working man's game at which we were all made to feel welcome.



We are very lucky at this club that CFU provides such a clear link between fans and directors. Its declared focus is to put fans first, recognising that, in these days of recession, some people have little money or no job. Many more people reach old age these days. All fans are equally valued and the wheelchair users and those with sight difficulties are given far more support than in previous days.

Our club has, rightly, always been known as a family club which is conscious of its place in the community. Last week Stuart, our Chaplain, organised a meal for the elderly in the Dublin Suite; this week sees our annual open air carol service and the Supporters' Club provides its Christmas meal for members. The Supporters'

Club has just started the U's Café which will be supplying fine breakfasts from Monday to Friday (9am – 1pm).

The Supporters' Club have supported the club financially over decades and provides a significant match day experience for many of us. Some years ago players would often wander over after games to mingle with fans and, before that, Ron Atkinson would happily analyse games with any fans present. Their independence has been a real asset to the club at times and, if the much anticipated North Stand is built, it will become an integral part of the building, just as it is an integral part of the club.

## *Who are Accrington Stanley?*

Cambridge United failed to deliver much of a performance at Accrington Stanley (yes, they are a real club). As I watched, it seemed like a metaphor for life. At its best, my team go for the throat, confident that their forwards will score anywhere and create problems for any defence. Sometimes they go into a defensive shell, sit deep and wait for something lucky to happen. Generally it doesn't. Accrington Stanley were fierce and combative (not dirty) and made the most of their chances while we had the consolation of a marvellous last minute goal scored by our centre half. In this life you get nothing unless you back yourself to be better than your rivals. Our fans were strangely quiet – even though there were plenty of us. It was almost as if we sensed that our favourite team hadn't really turned up.




Other than that we enjoyed a few beers and pre match fare at the Crown, which sits next to the ground. A very brave Accrington fan collected money from many of our fans, having to be at his charming best to convince them that he was raising money for disabled children – as he has been doing for a while. The winner, from Cambridge, was one of those most reluctant to buy a ticket – another metaphor. The officials and volunteers at the club could not have been more friendly or helpful. Thank heavens for that and a very fine IPA.



## *Players In*

Almost at a stroke, following a disappointing game at Accrington, Richard Money displayed what a decisive manager he is, bringing in the exciting Jordan Chiedozie (permanently) and KaiKai and Atkinson on loan. This, in addition to two very exciting prospects from the League of Ireland, shows that 'Dickie' never lets things stand still. Who knows, the play offs may be a realistic prospect by the end of January?

## *Wimbledon Away*



It's always nice to feel at home at an away game. The aptly named fish bar and the presence of over 800 Cambridge fans more of less guaranteed that. Some of our possession football in the second half was as good as I've seen in a long time and Kwesi's goal was top drawer (please stay). Wimbledon is a tough place to go but we were clearly the better side – after the first five minutes. I have often said that our fans are the best there are. The away support is astonishing in terms of noise and numbers. I was standing amongst the noisy boys and their drummer but, during the minute' silence before the game, you could have heard a pin drop. I felt very proud.

## *Five a Side Tournament*

*Have you planned your Christmas yet? At the time of writing, I have just viewed this year's John Lewis TV advert for the first time – the one with Monty the penguin. By the time you read this, you will probably be sick and tired of it.*

*Boxing Day brings a home tie against Saarfend (kick off 1.00 p.m.) and on Sunday 28th we have the joys of the Lamex Stadium to look forward to. Then, for many, several days of leisure until New Year, all the same, maybe. But not Monday 29th December, though.*

*Why not? Well that is the day of the annual CFU / Kelsey Kerridge Christmas 5-a-side tournament, now in its 13th year. It takes place at the KK Sports Centre in Gonville Place, Cambridge, between 2.00 p.m. and 6 p.m., and is the perfect way to shake off the post-Christmas malaise, with an afternoon of great sporting activity.*

*The Tournament consists of 14 teams divided into 2 groups of 7. Each team plays the others in their group in 8 minute long games. But don't let the short time fool you, these games can be very hard. The only time a game stops is when a goal is scored!*



*The league winners play in the final, with the runners up playing for 3rd place. Medals are awarded to 8 players of the Winners, Runners up and 3rd Place teams.*

*Competition is intense and enthusiastic, with several teams returning every year to continue success or to do better. Local side, Trumpington Tornadoes, were the victors in the tournament's first 5 years, but they had to give way to others a few times, before regaining the*

*crown in 2013.*



*Teams travel some distance to compete, with regulars coming from London and further afield. Already 10 of last year's teams have said they will take part, but there is still time to get in before entries close, if you are quick.*

*Entry costs £70. For a registration form contact organiser, Terry Wilby, by email: terry.wilby@ntlworld.com*

*Or see me at the CFU 'van.*

*Spectators are very welcome and entry to Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre is free to players and spectators. It is also a good opportunity to have a look at their excellent facilities such as the Outlooks gym, the very well-equipped weights room and superb climbing walls.*

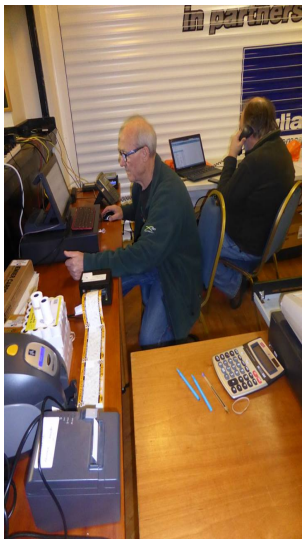
*Terry said "Arranging this tournament gets me out of going to the post-Christmas sales with my wife, although it doesn't stop her spending my money!"*

*Stefan, from last year's runners up, SK Team, said "We all enjoyed the tournament a lot and we are looking forward to taking part again, this year.*

*CFU began the tournament to get local community groups together in a sporting event and this has continued to be great fun and entertainment, each year. I really enjoy helping Terry with the recording on the day and I would encourage any U's fan to get involved, either in a team or on the balcony as a spectator.*

*Robert Osbourn*

## *Farewell to Portacabins*



As part of the gradual improvement of the infrastructure, the old portacabins are no more. As a sentimental chap I will rather miss them but the new ones look splendid. Just as a footnote to that, it's worth mentioning that when I bought tickets for the Mansfield game, late on Friday afternoon, I encountered Colin Proctor and John Bilboa – who'd both been there since 7am. We are gradually bringing in more paid staff – people forget how rapidly our success, and the consequent big crowds, have arrived – but it bears saying again that, when we dropped out of the League and were penniless, volunteers saved the club. A combination of fans, CFU and dedicated volunteers put this club back where it belongs. There will always be room for the kind of unpaid expertise we've been so fortunate to have. Incidentally, have you noticed our new car park attendant? He does look familiar.






## *The Endeavour Club (alias Vice President's)*

This offers fans an opportunity to watch games in comfort in the Main Stand and to enjoy refreshments before, during and after the game in the old Boardroom. Stalwart fan and legendary librarian, Margaret Stephen, has enjoyed several seasons mixing with similarly discerning fans who appreciate a little more luxury in their football experience. She is pictured here with Great granddaughter, Jessica, Cambridge United's newest fan.



## *CFU and Our Wonderful Pitch*

Our pitch is probably one of the best playing surfaces in the football league and has been commended by many teams who have played on it. It is particularly appreciated by our players who are able to play an expansive passing game on it. To provide a quality pitch requires not only the knowledge and hard work of Ian, Mick and the part time staff it also requires quality equipment. CFU have helped with providing new a grass cutter and white lining machine when the old



ones started to break down. If you would like to join or make a donation to CFU go to:

www.cambridgefansunited.org/store/c1/Featured_Products.html

Follow CFU daily @

www.facebook.com/CambridgeUnitedFootballClub

www.cambridgefansunited.org

### *FA Cup Magic*



"Well, at least we're in the hat!" – fans were saying after a fairly disappointing game against Mansfield. Stags' fans are still getting used to the new passing game they are playing under the League's youngest manager. They were unrecognisable from the fairly poor side we saw in October. Their front four were fluent, quick and pretty dangerous. However, we're all entitled to an off day and I'm sure many of us will make our way to the replay confident of a better performance. It was heart-warming to see the club's commemoration of the 1914 Christmas Truce – which, of course, is the focus of the carol service. The reward for beating Mansfield would be a very winnable home tie against Bury or Luton – Man Utd in the next round then…….



### *Christmas Presents*

How good it was to see the first team squad making their annual visit to Addenbrookes where so many sick children were delighted to see them. What a good year this has been for the club in the community with its educational programmes and half term activities. How good it is to see Dusty Miller back in a Cambridge shirt and to see interest in the club grow as it grows from strength to strength. What I'd like for Christmas is for Kwesi Appiah to stay – and for Grosvenor to redevelop our existing stadium – but that might need more than Santa's intervention.




### *And Finally….*

…A very Merry Christmas to everyone connected with the club. If you still have presents to buy for friends and family, don't forget the club shop, memberships of CFU and the Supporters' Club or the CFU Online Lottery Scheme. Have a good'un.



Your opinions and contributions are always gratefully received. Please send to: acstephen@hotmail.com

## Make a difference – join CFU