AMBER NEWS

Cambridge Fans United

CFU

"Uniting Our Community"



September 2014

'What Injury Crisis?'

Edition

"There is plenty of time to win this game, and to thrash the Spaniards"
Drake

- 'Football without fans is nothing' is what it said on the banner of fans protesting to the Football Association about how parents can't afford to take themselves, or their children, to Premiership games. Once it was the working man's sport – now the Premiership is a cartel employed by TV to make money. The agents, media moguls and players who earn obscene amounts of money benefit from the new way – but no one else does. If I hadn't taken my children to watch Cambridge United so often neither they nor their children would ever have become fans. As it is, the bigger clubs take more and more, leaving less and less for the so-called little clubs whose fans deserve better. They are not in it for the glory,



they are there because they believe in the game. They are deeply knowledgeable about it and they share a love of tradition. Daft wages in the Premiership attract mediocre players and fill the pockets of players who are too young to use it responsibly and who believe in their own propaganda. If the FA had any belief in the grassroots, they would limit the number of foreign players so that our national team had some players to choose from. They would use the wealth hoarded by our top teams to pay for youth schemes at every level, football pitches, the recruitment of referees, sports facilities in schools and local communities – because the government won't. The idea of making the lower leagues the territory of B teams for the Big Four and others is a disgrace. One day the bubble will burst, the money will disappear, along with the foreign mercenaries, and we may well find that the grass roots have been killed off. The FA are no longer fit to run the national game. It's time that the fans took over.

- Following England's dismal performance against Norway, followed by a slightly improved performance against Switzerland, it was disappointing to hear Ray Hodgson say that we can't expect promising young England players to be regulars for their clubs. Germany's number 9 plays for their top club and their policy of encouraging home grown talent seems to be working…….

- As a 'little club' supporter, I now own a programme saying 'Back into the League' on its cover. I will always treasure it. Our first week in the big time featured matches against Plymouth, Birmingham and Portsmouth. We've played pretty well so far and, although I couldn't tell you how we'll do over a season, the signs are good. 6,000 fans came to our first home game and over 1000 went to Portsmouth. I know I'm not the only fan lucky enough to have a club which is genuinely close to my heart but, in common with all those others who support a proper club, I am happy to claim that:

"We're by far the greatest team the world has ever seen."

……and no one can tell me otherwise.



- After the Plymouth game we bumped into the players and coaching staff of Oldham Athletic. We had a chin wag about the old days, compared notes and our hopes for the season. They

asked about the impact that Robbie Simpson had had since coming back to us. He had played for Oldham some years ago and they were interested in how he was doing. This was a chance meeting at a service station but this kind of thing happens regularly to members of the football family. We shook hands and wished each other luck. Not much of a story you might say – but I'd disagree.

- James Alexander Gordon, the voice of 5 o'clock on Saturday evening, has died. He spoke so wonderfully that even the football results sounded like a fascinating story. We will not hear his like again.



- You've got to love Sky Sports News:

  "Our poll has been unanimous so far. 81% of you think Loic Remy should go to Arsenal ahead of Chelsea."

  Actually you don't have to. I loved the anti-Sky protests on transfer deadline day – another depressing opportunity to prove that Sky Sports and the Premier League are somehow more important and more interesting than mere sport. More foreign mercenaries, more quick fixes, more wasted money, more desperation and more depressing news for promising young England players. Time for the Football League to break away and protect all that's best in our heritage. The 'Fair Play' rules made little difference to the clubs who splashed out half a billion pounds in the window. Ironically, QPR seem to have come off worst. Manchester City have been heavily fined but they still cheat the rules by claiming that naming their stadium has generated income. And they got Frank Lampard for nothing from a 'feeder' club. Manchester City's fine will be distributed amongst Europe's elite clubs. They should have been fined double and given the money to clubs nearer the bottom of the pyramid.

- My friend Gilbert reminds me that the first time Cambridge United's ground on Coldham's Common was used for a competitive game was on August 31st, 1932. Despite attempts to build houses on the site we remain playing there to this very day. All being well we will see a new North Stand built there in the near future and it will remain our home for many years to come.



- We announced our arrival in the League with a thumping 5-0 win against Carlisle at the end of August. This resulted in the Carlisle manager losing his job and it got me to thinking about

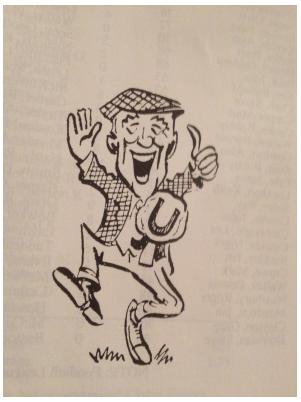
how many times a manager has been sacked after losing to us. It's not as if it's the ultimate indignity is it?

- Van Gaal is a genius – apparently. If the managers of Colchester and Carlisle had had his budget for new players they would still be in a job. Maybe even David Moyes would be. Being a Premiership manager must be a bit like playing computer games.

- Richard Money revealed a ruthless streak, typical of the very best managers, bringing in two new defenders after the Rourke's Drift that was York. Curiously, some fans have questioned the acquisition of Ryan Bird – since we already have great strength in the forward line. Surely, when a very good player becomes available, particularly one who is so keen to join us, we should snap him up. He scored many vital goals for us last season. Welcome back!

- We have been unlucky on the injury front, notwithstanding the assault and battery at Newport. Liam Hughes has a badly broken arm, Luke Chadwick, Appiah, Simpson and Dunk have leg injuries and Champion, our most influential player, has a broken cheek bone. That's half a team – but we can be certain that the research, for the one or two that will inevitably come in, has been done.

- Finally, a welcome to a new flag representing the Derbyshire U's. Our fans are second to none and, at times, the away support has been incredible. I'm sure our team feel loved wherever they play!



Up the U's

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

