AMBER NEWS

Cambridge Fans United

CFU

"Uniting Our Community"

December 2013

Christmas Edition



The months leading up to Christmas have been full of joy for Cambridge United fans but, if I were greedy man, (heaven forbid) these are ten more gifts that I would ask of Santa:-

1. Please let us stay at our present ground for many decades to come and persuade Grosvenor to build us the North Stand we should have had many years ago. And please persuade the pantomime sisters Cambridge City and South Cambs Council to support the scheme by building some houses and a Velodrome somewhere near the M11.
2. Can we be Champions at the end of the season?
3. If that's asking too much, please put us back in the League where we belong.
4. Please give us some referees who know the rules about hand ball – and some of the others.
5. Make Radio Cambridge take us as seriously as that lot up the A1.
6. Let us sign Chris Maxwell and Kwesi Appiah
7. Let us see the best of Tom Elliott.
8. An away win at Kiddie.
9. Re open Barnwell Junction on match days so that parking isn't such a problem.
10. Make some of our fans in the Habbin happier so they don't shout silly and negative things at our own players.



Testing Times

I find it sad that some of those who've enjoyed recent Ashes triumphs have now turned on the England team who've struggled against one of the best fast bowlers in the World. Sport always moves in cycles. You can only call yourself a supporter if you're still there when your team is struggling. I've no problem with sledging either but great players don't need to do it. Mitchell

Johnson, despite everything, is a troubled spirit, Michael Clarke doesn't deserve to be a captain – in any sport.

Mandela Tribute



I was very pleased at the way Cambridge United, like many other clubs, celebrated the life of Nelson Mandela. All the players, officials and fans joined in recognising that decency, honour, chivalry and courage are as important in Sport as they are anywhere else.

Supporters Direct

As an organisation, Supporters Direct believes that football clubs are something different, something special.

You don't get your ashes scattered in Tesco, or have it tattooed on your arm. The relationship between fans and their clubs transcends normal loyalties.

So, like most of you, we've been angry at what is happening at Hull City AFC.

The cases of Coventry City, Cardiff City and as far back as Wimbledon in 2002, to name but a few, have offered stark enough warnings of what happens when you leave the stewardship of important social, cultural and historical institutions (for that is what football clubs are) in the hands of a wealthy elite with short-term interests and a short-term outlook.

The very identity of football clubs, and their fans and communities, is simply too important to be entrusted to temporary owners, who are generally more interested in what they can take out of a club rather than what they can put back in, and whose decision-making does not take account of the wider interests of those who count their loyalty in tens of years and generations.

The most frustrating aspect is that these issues can be so easily avoided by the adoption of some simple principles, and there is no reason why they can't be acted upon right now.

- Firstly certain matters regarding the intrinsic identity of a club (colours, name, badge home ground) should only be changed with the agreement of a club's supporters (through a simple and open democratic process);
- Secondly that this requirement be included within FA rules so that it is mandatory for all clubs.

This simple change would have a significant effect. It was exactly this type of reform that was contemplated by the CMS Select Committee as part of its Inquiry into Football Governance in 2011 and 2012.



The recommendations from that Inquiry are still gathering dust and the deadline of a year that the Select Committee set the football authorities for meaningful action is nearly up. So whilst they fiddle, the very soul of some of our country's most important sporting and community assets continue to go up in smoke.



For more about SD, please head to our website http://www.supporters-direct.org/homepage/what-we-do/faqs

The 2012 / 13 Yearbook

…..is available to purchase from the CFU online shop. This would make the perfect Christmas present for your favourite United fans.



FA Cup

Well it was great when it lasted. A national audience on TV, a big gate, expectation, excitement and a reminder of the big time. Having beaten Bury on merit, the Blades wouldn't have fancied a game on our patch but in the end, I suppose, class told. How different it could have been though if we'd been awarded a penalty in the first minute or any of the other three we might well have had. We could reasonably call it the 'What if' Cup here. Remember Trevor Benjamin bring floored in the box playing against Preston. Everyone there saw a definite penalty except the referee who gave a free kick to – Preston.



And what about our quarter final game at Highbury when Dion Dublin separated Bould and Adams, who'd started to fight each other? Had they been sent off we might have made the semi-final – ah well, there's always another year.

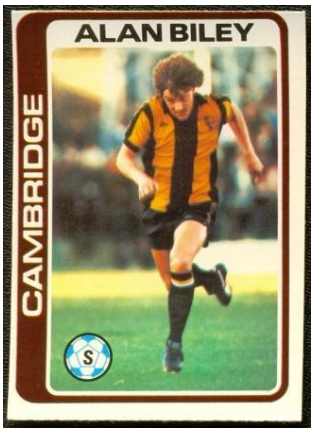
Happy Habbin



Over the years the Habbin has earned a reputation as a very dour place full of whingers and miseries. Sometimes some of the fans there criticise our players. The Baldies generally keep their own counsel. How wonderful then to hear satire directed against the unfortunate Danny, 'step-over', Rowe, whose own team mates

were so tickled by the mickey-taking that some of them even joined in. There's always a place for humour!

Vintage Footage



Recently, I watched a link on Facebook of our April 1978 encounter with Exeter City which resulted in our first promotion to the Second Division. How fortunate we were to have players like Steve Fallon and Alan Biley (the best player I've ever seen in our colours)and we were wearing the broad stripes beloved of Cambridge fans of a particular vintage. It was amazing to see so many fans so close to the pitch – and on it at various times. There was evidence, too, of some pretty dreadful hairstyles and fashions but no sign of the nanny state which has become such a millstone round our necks. I wonder – was life so much better then or does everyone remember their early adult lives as the time when everything was at its best? Answers on a postcard please.

Five-a-Side Tournament

The 12th Annual Cambridge Fans United/Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre Christmas 5-a-side Football Tournament will take place on Monday 30th December 2013, 2pm to 6pm at Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre, Gonville Place, Cambridge.

If you need an excuse to escape the family/in-laws/shop sales, or think you may consume too much food/drink and need an excuse for some exercise, this is your chance to do something about it!

The CFU/KKSCTournament consists of 14 teams divided into 2 groups of 7, each team plays the others in their group in 8 minute long games. 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 teams who top each league play in the final, the runners up of each league play for 3rd place.

Medals are awarded to 8 players of the Winners, Runners up and 3rd Place teams.

Winners for the first 5 years of the tournament were Trumpington Tornadoes. Kelsey Kerridge won in 2007 followed by Reed United, Something Out Of The Ordinary won in 2009 and 2010, Kelsey Kerridge again and Dark Horses last year when they beat Trumpington Tornadoes on penalties when the final finished 2-2, with Sporting Cavalero beating Ex-Press 3-1 for 3rd place.

There is a real mix of teams, the target is for all players and spectators to enjoy themselves regardless of who wins.

It costs £65 to enter a team, for a registration form contact Terry by email:
terry.wilby@ntlworld.com

Entry to Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre is free to players and spectators for this event. It is also a good opportunity to have a look at the excellent facilities in the Outlooks gym, the very well-equipped weights room and the superb climbing walls.0



More information can be found at:
http://www.cambridgefansunited.org/five-a-side.html

http://www.kelseykerridge.co.uk/



Picture of Dark Horses who won in 2012:

Christmas Quiz

1. What were the celery trenches?
2. What was the transfer fee paid for Bill Baldry and what provoked it?
3. How did Chelmsford City help United achieve promotion to the Football League?
4. Which Abbey Stadium delicacy won an award as the League's best value food? This was before the days of the Balti pies.
5. Who preferred running to the Gog Magog Hills to ordinary training?
6. Whose messy car was used as evidence of his 'lack of professionalism'? He was once hauled off during a game for beating his man too often.
7. Which Cambridge United forward developed the tactical use of the long throw?
8. Which Cambridge manager played alongside Don Revie in a famous Manchester City team?
9. Which legendary goalkeeper invented the moose?
10. Which famous author threw rock under cars on Newmarket Road in the belief that it would help us win matches?

Flag Days

We are lucky with the number and originality of the flags put up all round the country by our fans – many of whom travel all over the country from far flung outposts themselves. This is my particular favourite:









Player of the Season

------too early for that of course. However, despite the impressive claims of Luke Berry, Kwesi Appiah, Harrison Dunk and Tom Champion – if anyone asked me right now I'd say Josh Coulson – a United man through and through.

Festive Fun



The cameras will be back for our Boxing Day fixture at home to Braintree. BT seems to have enjoyed our games this season and we have certainly done our bit to entertain TV audiences. Fans wanting a good start to the day will be taking breakfast in the Supporters' Club or the Dublin Suite.

CFU – a force for good

I read, with great interest, the article called 'Bridge the Gap' in the programme for the Macclesfield game. It reminded me of why CFU came into existence during those dark days when the stadium was sold, we slipped out of the League and our very existence was in jeopardy. It's true to say that we were only saved by the Minister for Sport, the generosity of our fans and the hard work of CFU. How far things have moved on since then. Our Chairman belongs to the CFU trust board and Colin Proctor is an elected Director. The most important part of any club is the fans. If they had been represented in the 1990s, many of the dark days would have been avoided. No matter – we must rejoice in where we are now. Top of the League, likely to stay at our ancestral home on the Newmarket Road and free of the spectre of debt. The club is flourishing as never before because we are all, at last,

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

JOIN THE CFU



AND A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!