Cambridge Fans United

CFU

"Uniting Our Community"

AMBER NEWS

April 2013



It's been a rollercoaster...

There's been a lot of talk about our Centenary Season suffering as a result of poor budgeting in the past, alleged factions behind the scenes and the focus on the long awaited community stadium. The club have been accused, at different times, of lack of ambition or complacency, assuming that, as a big club, we are somehow entitled to go back into the 'real' league. There can be little doubt either that that a number of players bought last summer were shipped out either because they simply weren't good enough or because their attitude suggested that their egos were bigger than the Club. One thing that all Cambridge United fans have in common is the belief that whoever wears our shirt is rightly proud to do so and will give their utmost, irrespective of who they're playing against.

So, we look forward to next season yet again with greater realism and much more cause for optimism. I have every faith that Richard Money knows what he's doing, and, if allowed to shape his own team from the start, will create a team that wins, passes and entertains. The Chairmanship has moved from George Rolls to Dave Doggett in recent years, symbolising how much progress has been made at the top and guaranteeing the club a unity we have waited years to see. To those who argue that, as a club, we lack ambition and aren't interested in progress, I can do no better than quote Colin Proctor directly from the Message Boards:

"OK, the last five home games all sponsors lounge full, games to end of season also full, 55 per match.

All ground boards now sold and paid to end of next season, also using other areas of ground for ad boards, never been done before, at least not in the last 20 yrs.

Gates now around 2000, obviously would like more (injuries have not given us a settled side).

We are bringing in more children to our games (they being tomorrow's fans), the Marvin Bar now full every game. The S/S undercroft being used every game by kids, under the Development side.

We now run our own Tea Bars, undercroft bars, club shop, internet and intend to put on something each month (like the Eric Bristow show) to bring in much needed revenue.

Dicky D and Dave D are working their butts off getting things right and have a great team of real fans working for the sake of your club.

DM-J and his CFU team work evening and weekends and matchdays making our club the best outside the FL. Five working days at our club, helping on a no wage basis.

Our very small team of paid staff, going beyond the call to make our club a better place to come to.

A fantastic team running the Youth side of CU with over 1000 footballers and many more wanting places. By the way, funded by ourselves, most FL clubs can't do this with money thrown at them. Jez now has 15 and 16 year old local lads that have been with him since they were youngsters, almost ready to be stepping up off the conveyer belt into our squad.



Over the last few years CU has had to come to terms with the ground being stolen, now we have a good team of Directors (that's why we are still watching football), they really do want what everybody wants, FL, but it don't happen overnight (we are getting there).

Look at the FL clubs that think it's easy to get out of this league, throwing lottery money into a hopeless chase.

Give CU a break, get behind what is going forward, it's the best for all of us,

Like Rome, we really are building for the future."

Cambridge United Supporters' Trust...



....are funding a project into researching the Club's history. Amongst other evidence unearthed is Abbey United's balance sheet dated 1912 (thus our Centenary Year). Dave Matthews Jones is overseeing the project shown here at the launch of the All Our Stories projects in London.

Whither the Sports Village?



The Sports Village Concept has been a hot topic in Trumpington in recent weeks and the City Council's consultation plans seem to have created a degree of confusion. There is clearly a need for such a facility in Cambridge and finding the right location is paramount. Many fans, whilst aware of Grosvenor's record as friendly landlords, would love to see the village sited at the Abbey Stadium where a covenant requires that the land is specifically used for sporting purposes. We will see.

CFU Football Tournament

Tournament report by Terry Wilby.

Dark Horses won the 11th CFU/KKSC Christmas 5-a-side football tournament, beating Trumpington Tornadoes on penalties. The final had finished 2-2 at normal time, extra time couldn't separate the 2 teams. In penalties the Dark Horses keeper made a great save, and fittingly it was he who scored the winning goal. Dark Horses have been in the tournament for the last 8 years, and travel from Reading to take part.



Sporting Cavalero beat Ex-Press 3-1 to take 3rd place.

In Group 1 both Dark horses and Ex-Press were undefeated, Ex-Press's 2 draws meant they finished behind Dark Horses who finished with 5 wins and a draw.

Group 1 final positions: Dark Horses; Ex-Press; Kelsey Kerridge; Nigellas Xmas Vegetables; Athletico MadReed; Leyton Orientear; Skooters.

In Group 2 Trumpington Tornadoes had a 100% record, scoring 28 goals while only conceding 5 in their 6 matches. Sporting Cavalero's only defeat was to Tornadoes.

Group 2 final positions: Trumpington Tornadoes; Sporting Cavalero; SK Team; No Brainer; Hulk Logan; Sporting Reed Village; AN Other.

Host team Kelsey Kerridge scored most goals in the tournament with 29, at the other end of the scoring charts Skooters managed 5 and were the only team with a 100% losing record, for which they win the wooden spoon.



Organiser Terry Wilby commented "All the players deserve credit for playing their games with a very good spirit, there were no red or blue cards shown by the referees. I'd also like to thank the referees Richard Nichols, Alan Davies, Eli and Joseph Karram for their good control of the games, Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre, and Robert Osbourn for his help on the day."

CFU CFU Vice Chair Robert Osbourn said "This is an event organised by CFU for the community, and it is good to see local teams as well as others travelling from further away like Leyton Orientear who came from East London to take part. It is the first time I have been able to watch the tournament, and I was impressed by the quality of play on show".

Football Supporters – Today's Challenge

Football clubs, in and out of the League, face challenging times and viability has become the word of the moment. Clubs have to find alternative income streams and ways of using grounds all year round and for a multitude of different purposes. We've seen Chester, Rushden, Darlington and Kettering face extinction, although two of these clubs are finding a way back. Portsmouth and Coventry City have flirted with administration and bankruptcy and even apparently wealthy clubs like Crawley can be suddenly put up for sale. All this only goes to show that fans need to have a real say in the running of their clubs. Unsympathetic owners can ruin the work of decades and destroy the dreams of thousands.



We won't let it happen here….

An interesting link which features articles about Portsmouth and supporters trusts at other clubs is:

WWW.SUPPORTERS-DIRECT.COOP

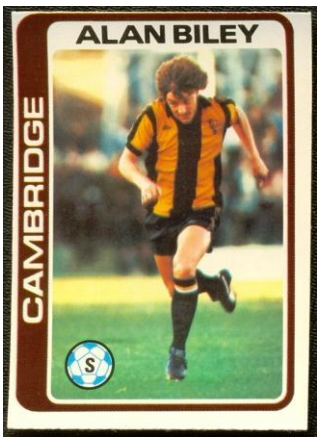
Fans interested in problems facing football across Europe and in the roles that 'ordinary' fans take in the running of their clubs may well find the Supporters Direct Newsletter an interesting read.



Non League Referees

I know that it's far from sporting to blame poor results on officials – BUT, is it just me or have we fast tracked so many good young referees to the Football League that those who remain behind are just not very good? I have seen three or four good performances from officials this season. Maybe it's time they were paid as well as the players?

Best Team Ever



The Message Board has been alive with debate about our best ever XI. The last piece of the jigsaw was Alan Biley. Now, I'm too young to have seen the great Wilf Mannion – but Alan Biley is far and away the best player I've ever seen in a Cambridge shirt. A brilliant finisher, he was utterly fearless and never allowed defenders to bully him. He once scored a hat trick against Cardiff whilst injured with a dead leg. Happy days indeed…



www.play2winlottery.co.uk

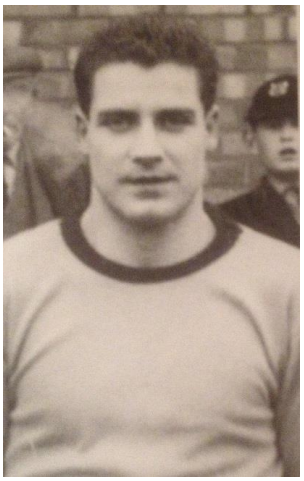
Here's your chance to support CUFC and your local community.

75% of the proceeds go directly to help CUFC and the rest goes to local charities such as

Rowan Humberstone who do great work for those with learning disabilities.

The Lottery will also help to fund vital pieces of maternity equipment at the Rosie.

Make a difference for as little as £2 a week.



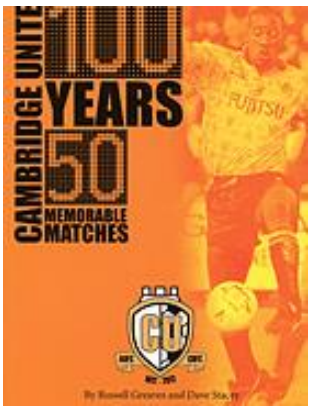
Jackie Scurr RIP

We were all saddened by the recent death of Jackie Scurr, one of our great players from our champagne years in the Southern League. Nowadays, he would be called a box to box midfielder with enormous stamina, ferocious tackle and endless enthusiasm. He would have walked into today's team and bee appalled by the theatrical antics of players not fit to lace his boots in the modern game.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

And finally…

It's no longer enough for fans to turn up at grounds at 3 o'clock, buy a pie and steaming Bovril, assuming that their team will beat everyone and treat finance as a vulgar irrelevance. Fans increasingly need to get involved with their clubs. CFU sponsor Rossi Jarvis, James Akintunde and Kieran Westwood. Colin Proctor represents fans at Board Level and the Chairman is a fan. We can all help by buying Legends scratch cards, the 100 Years Book, using the online shop. The Play2win Lottery could appeal to anyone, not necessarily only football fans. If you possibly can, buy a season ticket.



We won't to be here a hundred years from now but our beloved club will be.



Make a difference – join CFU!