

the blue

official newsletter of the united trust
january 2015 edition



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' A secure future together '

Newsletter reintroduction

In an effort to try to communicate better over the last year the trust has focussed on using the internet, Facebook and Twitter along with regular articles in the CUFC home programmes. There has been some criticism that those members who do not use electronic media have been missing out on what has been happening not only with their own trust but in the wider world of trusts. To meet this criticism it has been decided to reintroduce this newsletter and to produce this on a more regular basis. We will accept contributions and questions from members which we will try to answer in future issues, these can be sent in via email to info@united-trust.org.uk or to the football club for the attention of Norman Steel.

A message from Norman Steel

A small group of Trust board members have been in discussions with potential investors in CUFC Holdings for several months now. Norman Steel, Frank Beattie and Jim Mitchell have had meetings with potential investor Andrew Lapping and also the other owners of CUFC Holdings. The object of these meetings is to introduce new investment in CUFC Holdings and the Trust representatives are being very flexible in their approach to these meetings to try to bring about what will be best for CUFC in terms of financial stability for the future. When further details are known you will be informed.

The United Trust would like to thank Fred Story on behalf of all supporters for the magnificent gesture in writing off the substantial loan he gave to the club. His contribution over the years to the football club and the community has not only been generous but very welcome.

The supporters draw



CUSG (Carlisle United Supporters Groups) have come together to organise a grand draw to raise funds for the floodlight refurbishment and we would urge all supporters to purchase tickets for this draw which will take place on Saturday 31st January 2015. Club sponsors have been very generous in providing prizes and we would like to thank them for that. Tickets cost £1 each or £5 for a book. They are available from the club, at the ground at home games and on certain days in Tesco Warwick Road store. Also away travel buses and London Branch members. Please give your full support to this effort, the manager, Keith Curle and his players are supporting the fans efforts.

Partial list of prizes: 3 Nights in a 4* London Hotel with Travel - 2 return train tickets to London - Samsung Chromebook - Tesco vouchers - Meal at the Viceroy restaurant - Meal at the Beehive - Prize from Dodd Murray Ltd - Prize from Billy Atkinson - Prize from Thomas Graham Ltd - And many more

The season so far

Well the Tranmere win certainly put a smile on quite a lot of faces, it could well prove to be the most important result of the season. It maybe wasn't pretty but it was long time since we'd seen a win and it didn't really matter how it came about. The most important thing was it was a win and was followed by an away win at the 'monkey hangers' which felt really good. Going out of the JPT on penalties was a blow for all of us looking forward to another Wembley trip but a draw after 90 minutes gave Keith Curle an opportunity to look at more squad players under real game conditions and the lessons learned would be put to good effect.



Looking back to the start of Keith Curle's reign it should be carved in stone that it took only the half time break, at Mansfield, for the new manager to put his stamp on how the game will be played by CUFC in future. His after match interview revealed a person who knows something about football and who won't stand for any nonsense.

The manager says he's been given a changing room of pieces, like a jigsaw puzzle, and says its his job to make his mind up very quickly what the picture holds. He knows that everyone wants things to happen quickly but he needs time to put that final piece in place. progress has been made and the playing squad now appears to be taking shape with Keith Curle giving details to the board of those players he would like to keep and those who he needs to move on with the intention that they will be replaced with players of the calibre he requires.

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Results have not exactly been what we want of late with a sequence of defeats with a rare win thrown in to the mix. A very encouraging performance in The FA Cup at Peterborough where a replay was snatched from our grasp in the last minutes of the game. If this game is anything to go by the memories of a truly awful start to the season will be in the distant past and we can all look forward to a brighter second half of the season. For the club to do well it needs the support of the whole community so if you can encourage some of the 'stay away' supporters to return it will all help. The festive season performance against York will not help when we saw a dismal performance in front of the largest crowd for a long time.

The second half of the season has now started and for 44 minutes against Newport we really looked the part but, sadly, we couldn't maintain the high standards we had shown. These were very different to the staggeringly shameful displays we have had since that promising FA Cup tie with Peterborough and there is possibly some glimmer of hope but we really need some experience in the side and hopefully this transfer window Keith Curle will get the players he wants and the fans will get the wins they are hoping for.

CUFC Away Travel

The following away travel is planned for December, January and February, other months will be detailed in the next newsletter. Coach departures, from Brunton Park, may be subject to alteration and should be checked at the time of booking. Bookings can be made by phoning **07563700987**, please note there are no concessions.

January 17th	AFC Wimbledon departs 0600, cost £37 route M6.
January 24th	Bury departs 10.45, cost £18 route M6.
February 7th	Tranmere departs 10.00, cost £29 route M6.
February 14th	Luton departs 0700, cost £34 route M6.
February 28th	Southend departs 0630, cost £37 route M6.
March 14th	York departs 10.45, cost £20 route A66.
March 17th	Northampton departs 12.30, cost £25 route A66.
March 28th	Oxford departs 0700, cost £34 route M6.
April 6th	Accrington Stanley departs 1600, cost £20 route M6.
April 15th	Burton Albion departs 14.30, cost £23 route M6.
April 25th	Stevenage departs 0700, cost £34 route A66.

Departure times for Penrith, add 30 minutes, please note prices do not include a match ticket.

A 5 year plan



Work has been ongoing through out the year to put a lot more detail on the proposed 5 year plan which the trust board is hoping to put into place to give members some idea of what is planned for the future. The main areas being looked at are things like membership numbers and subscription levels, fund-raising, shareholding and better communication with members, further integration into the football club and closer working with other supporters groups, examining how best to receive feedback from supporters and how this will be brought to the attention of the club and its board.

Trying to ensure trust representatives are available prior to home games, ensuring that the trust and the club operate under proper governance and that supporters are properly informed about project blue yonder. Supporters Direct have been advising the trust board concerning the 5 year plan and the board is grateful for their input. The final details are in place and the responsibilities for action have been allocated, a further meeting of the trust members responsible is to be held and then this document will be launched.

Proposed government legislation in football

For almost the whole of the life of the current coalition government there has been cross party cooperation in an effort to address some of the concerns that football supporters have over the way their clubs and football in general are run in this country. The main push on behalf of supporters is being led by Supporters Direct and The Football Supporters Federation, with the help of UEFA, who have lobbied MP's and various parliamentary committees. Norman Steel and Frank Beattie have attended, on behalf of the trust and CUFC supporters in general, many of these meetings at their own expense.

It is very frustrating that progress is extremely slow and with the next general election due in 2015 it is imperative that this initiative is continued should there be a change of government. To that end Clive Efford MP (Labour) who is the shadow minister for sport has held various meetings and conference calls across the country. He is very clear that the meetings and calls are a consultation only and a means of him being able to listen to supporters about their concerns across all levels of football.

Norman Steel and Frank Beattie took part in a 90 minute conference call mid year and Billy Atkinson and Carol Wilson attended a meeting at the Labour party conference. The main area of concern was about football governance and the fact that there is no transparency and the rules appear to stop anyone including government from changing the way things are done. Fans thought that there should be rules set out for boards of directors to comply with like any other business and there should be a code of conduct for directors to follow. Fans also want to see a grievance policy set in place for when they have issues with their club.

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Clive Efford MP also stated that Labour is committed to making Premier League clubs honour their promise of 5% going to clubs at the grassroots level. Fans involvement with the running of their clubs was also discussed and whether clubs should be consulting fans on ticket prices, the club identity and the involvement of sponsors and other external organisations.

Since these meetings were held Labour have vowed to introduce a law which will force all clubs to have fans representatives in the boardroom, should it form the government after the General Election next May, it has also confirmed that measures to help supporters would be included in its election manifesto when it is officially unveiled by its leader Ed Miliband.

Helen Grant, Sports Minister, said she was planning to launch a new “expert working group” aimed at giving supporters more say in how clubs are run, but stopped short of matching Labour's promises.

The chief executive of the Football League, Shaun Harvey, expressed reservations about the potential of Labour's proposals to “act as a disincentive” to new owners and expose supporters to “unacceptable levels of financial risk”.

Cambridge United - what do they do that's different

The visit to Cambridge was meant to be an exploratory trip by Norman Steel and Frank Beattie and it was recommended by Supporters Direct as a good example of a community club where all the supporters are working together for the benefit of the club. The result on the day, a 5 - nil drubbing was to say the least embarrassing and proved to be the final act of Graeme Kavanagh's career at CUFC.

The first thing that you see at Cambridge is there is a buzz about the ground and everyone is very welcoming. They have meet and greet people, like the Olympics and they're well equipped with info to answer any questions about where you need to go for anything to do with the game or the pre match period. Most of the directors were on hand going round the ground making sure everything was running as it should do and guiding people to where they needed to go.

When Norman and Frank were there they meet Dave Doggett who is the chairman of the club and Dave Matthew Jones one of the supporters leaders and they explained how the cooperation that we had observed came about and went on further to talk about some of the events that are held at the ground on non match days. One example was a free lunch held every 2 weeks for senior citizens and this had proved very popular. They explained that there was about 40 to 60 fans working on a voluntary basis on match days and that this was working very well.

Overall it proved to be a very positive visit and the general feeling was that a lot was learned about how supporters can help and feel part of their club. Some of this now needs to be discussed with CUFC to see how this could be adopted at Brunton Park.

The sequence of events that followed this defeat have been well documented and Norman Steel, as the trusts representative, was involved fully in the decision to terminate Graeme Kavanagh's contract and was also involved in the interviews when Keith Curle was appointed.

Trust Member In Focus - John Myron

John Myron (75) is a loyal and long-standing Carlisle United Supporter and United Trust Member. John has been heavily involved with volunteer work at Brunton Park over the past 18 months on behalf of the Trust and he took time before this season's home game with Accrington Stanley to talk to The United Trust about his time as a Blues Supporter.

Q. How long have you supported Carlisle United?

Since 1946; I was only 8 years old and my first match was the first game after the Second World War ended (Third Division North, 1-1 vs Stockport County at Brunton Park). My dad wasn't a supporter, but because it was a novelty [after the war years when no football was played between 1939 and early 1946], he came to Brunton Park and he brought me with him. I wasn't allowed to come by myself for another 4 years, but when I was 12 I started coming on Saturdays regularly.

Q. What are your favourite memories of Carlisle United over the years?

The first trip to Wembley [for the Football League Trophy Final in 1995 when Carlisle played Birmingham City, losing to an extra time 'Golden Goal' in the 103rd minute in front of a crowd of over 76,000]

A 0-0 draw against Sunderland at Brunton Park many years ago, it was before the hooligans, everyone was mixed in together in the 'Scratching Shed' (Which preceded the current East Stand), Sunderland supporters were standing beside us and there was no problem at all

A game against Middlesbrough at Brunton Park in front of over 27,000 supporters, which you just can't imagine today. But the hooligans spoiled it; before the hooligans came along everyone was mixed in together and you got a lot more people coming to games

Q. What has been your longest away trip to watch Carlisle United?

I have been to all of the south coast grounds; I was at Plymouth & Portsmouth this season and Brighton, Exeter, Southend and Southampton over the years

Q. Do you have a favourite player from all of your years supporting Carlisle United?

I don't have an actual favourite player, I couldn't pick 'one' out, but I can remember watching great players like Ivor Broadis & Billy Hogan in the 1940's & 50's; Alex McIntosh [in the early 1950's]; Hughie McIlmoyle [62-65, 67-70 & 74-75] and Peter Beardsley [1979-82]

Q. Do you think Carlisle United has had its biggest day in football or do you think it's still to come?

We've had it; the 74-75 season was definitely the highlight of my supporting days and the season we got promoted into the First Division. I don't think we'll ever get into the Premier League. We could make the Championship and don't forget we spent 10-12 years as a second division side from 1964 [with the 74/75 season in Division 1]. [To do it] we've got to have a good manager who can attract some decent players to Carlisle

Q. What do you think about the new regime under Manager Keith Curle?

I think it's too early to tell, but there are positive signs. He [Keith Curle] seems to have a good idea of which direction he's going in

Q. In the run up to the game with Accrington Stanley (15/11/14), Tom Aldred (Ex-Carlisle United) has publicly stated that he felt he left Carlisle United too soon, when after only 5 first team appearances for the club he left to join Watford. He didn't make a single first team appearance for Watford between 2010-11 or Colchester between 2011-13, joining Accrington in 2013.

Some of the current crop of young players have had contract extensions offered to them recently, some have accepted them such as Steven Rigg and Dan Hanford, but Brad Potts, Kyle Dempsey and Mark Beck haven't yet put pen to paper (at the time of this interview) - do you think it's too soon for them to move on?

Well it's too soon and I'd like them to stay. In the last game I saw Brad Potts play he looked to me as if all the talk about interest from other clubs and his agent apparently trying to get him a move to a Championship club had side-tracked him

Q. What changes would you like to see in the modern game?

Less cheating! [The game] definitely isn't as honest as it used to be and I think it's because of the money involved

Q. How long have you been a member of the United Trust?

Almost 10 years now. I took part in the second march held by the CCUIST from the Sands Centre [to protest against Michael Knighton's ownership]

Q. Do you think Supporters Trusts are a good idea?

I think they have to be because the supporters are there long after the players, the managers and owners have gone. The supporters, the loyal supporters, are the only constant in a football club

Q. In the last 18 months you've done a lot of volunteer work at Brunton Park on behalf of the United Trust - how did you get involved and what have you been doing?

There was an advert on the Trust website asking for volunteers; Harold Bowron (London Branch) and Norman Steel (United Trust Chair) were looking for volunteers to tidy the ground up before the start of last season and I've been involved in painting all around the ground ever since

Q. Where do you think Carlisle will finish in the league this season?

In the middle; it's still a long way off Christmas so there's more than half the season to go, it's just a case of getting a few good results, starting with 3 points today, which would be very, very useful...

20-odd questions - with Billy Paynter



Billy Paynter is Carlisle United's number 9, arriving from Doncaster in June 2014. Billy is originally from Merseyside, was born in 1984 and has played for Port Vale, Hull (L), Southend (L), Bradford (L), Swindon, Leeds, Brighton (L), Doncaster & Sheffield United (L). He is sponsored this season by The United Trust and we caught up with Billy this week in-between training sessions and asked him '20-odd questions'

1. How has your time at CUFC so far? *'It's been a bit frustrating with a few injuries and then the manager that brought me in left'*
2. How did you feel about coming so far north to Carlisle? The travelling must make it difficult? *'I had no problem coming to Carlisle, I bought a place to stay over and I go home sometimes to see the family'*
3. How are things different at CUFC under Keith Curle? *'We do 'honesty talks' and 'paperwork' which is new to me'*
4. What do you think of CUFC's 'young guns'? *'The young pros are coming along very well, they'll have a bright future I'm sure. Also there are a few good trainees that have trained with us'*
5. What advice would you give to some of these young players who have come through from the youth team? *'Listen and learn, work hard and respect others, but stand up for yourself'*
6. We were relegated from League 1 last season which we really didn't expect and fans are very disappointed at our current position in League 2 and our form has been a bit erratic - where do you think this team can genuinely finish this season? *'Yes we had a bad start to the season, but if we put a few wins together, we will climb up the league. Wins will bring confidence to the team and if that happens I think we could still make the play offs'*
7. What do you think of the CUFC support? *'The fans have been great home and away, travelling to all ends of the country. I think as well with a few wins together it'll only get better'*
8. What is the largest crowd you've played in front of & in which game? *'I played at Wembley in a play-off final' [for Swindon vs Millwall 2009/10 in front of a crowd of 73,108]*
9. Who are the best players you have played with or against? *'Played against Roberto Carlos for [Turkish side] Fenerbahce in a pre-season friendly'*
10. Who was your footballing idol when you were growing up? Which team did you support as a child? *'Being an Everton fan 'Big Duncan Ferguson' was everyone's idol at the time I was young'*
11. What is your favourite way to score? *'Best way to score? Every way!'*
12. It has been noted that within the dressing room you are one of the main 'jokers' in the pack - can you describe the other players in the squad? *'The lads are all "characters" - a good bunch'*
13. Which was your best goal/favourite moment? *Winning promotion and the way we did it at Doncaster in the last game [Doncaster Rovers needed a point from the last game of the 2012/13 season to ensure promotion & second place in League 1. However, after a Brentford penalty in the 94th minute hit the crossbar, Rovers managed to beat Brentford with a 96th minute breakaway goal from James Coppinger. Billy Paynter was a second half substitute coming on mid-way through the second half]*
14. What is your Favourite:
Song - *Hey Jude [The Beatles]*
Food - *Spicy curry*
Other Sport - *Golf*
Clothes - *A Balaclava!*
Car - *Mercedes*
Holiday destination - *Las Vegas*
Thing about Carlisle - *the nice, friendly people... [Good answer...]*

15. The Home Nations Championships used to be something many of us really looked forward to every year; would you like to see the competition return? Do you think it would help the home nations with major tournaments if they were to play in an intense competitive tournament every season like the Rugby Union 6 Nations? *'Definitely we should bring back home nations. No one gets up for friendlies, only if they're against the fellow nations. England should play in different grounds as well for friendlies, give kids in the north a chance to see them play instead of watching it on TV'*

16. What do you think about Greg Dyke's League 3 idea? *'League 3 - waste of time'*

17. Just what was said in the dressing room at HT at Mansfield to inspire that comeback? *The Gaffa isn't a man of many words, it was 'stop the opposition, then play'*

18. What do you like to do in your free time away from football? *'In my free time like to play golf and spend it with my family'*

19. Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time? Are you likely to go into coaching in the future? *'In 5 years I'd hope to be still in the game and would love to coach'*

20. Do you think Carlisle United have had their biggest day i.e. the 1st div season in 1974/5 or do you think a club like this with the right investment could still make the big time? *'There will be a bigger day for Carlisle!'*

21. You've played for some clubs where Supporters Trusts play a significant part in the running of those clubs - What do you think about supporters being involved in the running of clubs via trusts? *'Port Vale and Swindon [had significant Supporters Trusts]. I think all chairmen are fans of their club, they know the history of the club and what it means [to fans]. Unlike Far East [people for example] with billions who are just playing real live Football Manager. Every fan has an opinion that they talk about in pubs with friends, but with a club being run by fans, [it means] their opinion matters and will be listened to'*

Want this newsletter via email in future?

If you received this newsletter through the post, chances are you haven't yet given us your email address. The Trust is seeking to communicate through electronic means to save money on postage. The more we save, the more we can support the football club. Please send us your name, membership number (if known) and email address to info@united-trust.org.uk

Once we have your email address, we will update you with regular news from the Trust via our members' mailing list. Already we can communicate with over 60% of our members in this way, and we'd like to increase this percentage.

Membership fee increase

The adult price of membership, including family membership fee will rise to £10 from June 1 this year, in line with our five year plan. By increasing membership fees after many years set at just £5, we are providing an improved income to allow us to help Carlisle United FC while still offering an inexpensive membership subscription. Note that membership for OAPs (those aged over 60 who are drawing a pension) and under 18s will remain at £5. If you renew your membership BEFORE June 1, it will still cost just £5.

Volunteers needed

The United Trust is currently seeking to bolster support for the Trust and the Club by expanding its bank of volunteers. A number of events & activities will be taking place over the course of the rest of the season and beyond in line with the 5 Year Plan. If you are able to offer either regular (Match days) or ad-hoc time to assist with these various activities please contact The United Trust on info@united-trust.org.uk or tel **07796260522** You can also speak with us directly at Brunton Park before home games where representatives of the Trust board are always available to answer questions & provide membership/Trust information



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c/o Dodd & Co

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Frank Beattie (vice-chair)

Alastair Woodcock (secretary, non-board member)

Peter Harrington (treasurer, non-board member)

Jim Mitchell

Carol Wilson

David Steele

Lynda Johnston

Billy Atkinson

Tommy Earl

Don Beacock

Nigel Davidson

John Kukuc