

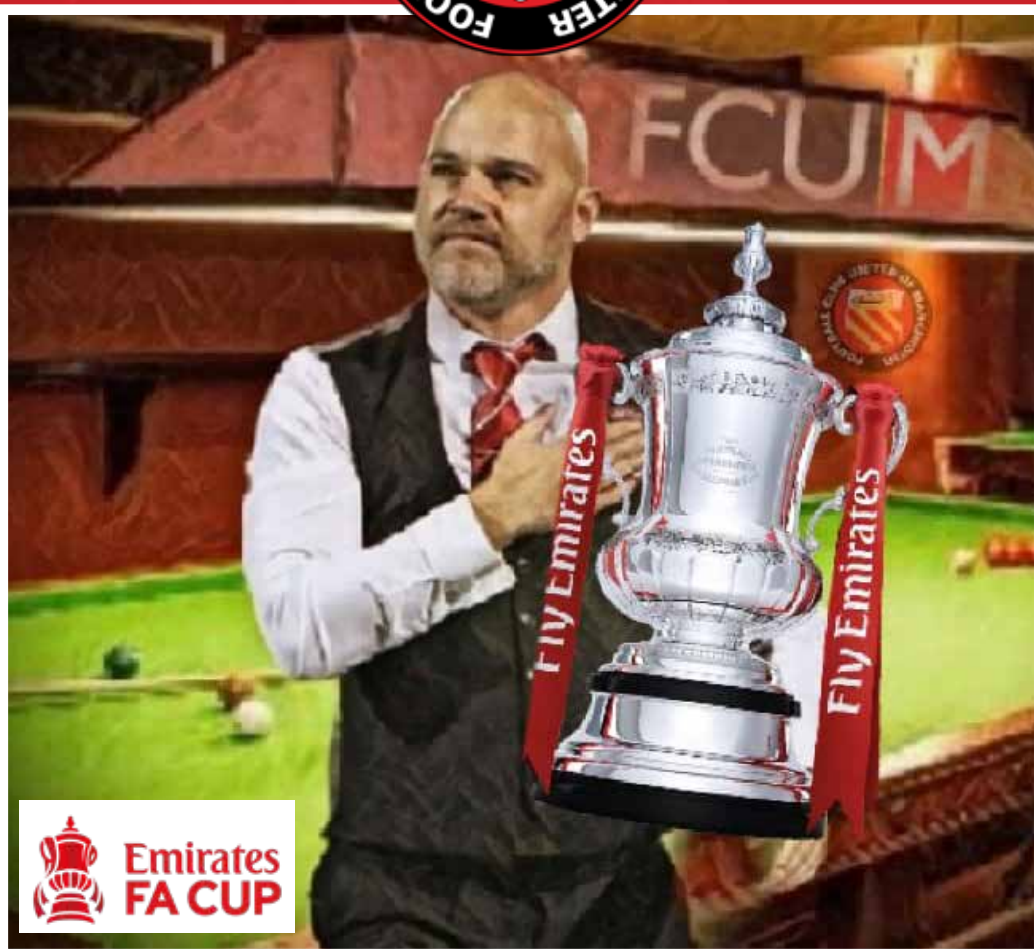
FCUM REVIEW

2020-2021

FA Cup 3rd qualifying round
v ALFRETON TOWN
Broadhurst Park



Tuesday 13th October
VOLUME 16, ISSUE 7
Price: £2



Emirates
FA CUP

OFFICIAL FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Neil Reynolds

FC UNITED'S MANAGER TALKS IN THE BUILD-UP TO TONIGHT'S GAME

There's nothing quite like FA Cup action under the floodlights here at Broadhurst Park.

I thought we were brilliant against Curzon Ashton in the previous round of the Cup and thoroughly deserved the victory. It was a strange build-up to the game, with only really knowing for sure that it was going to go ahead a couple of days before.

That said, it didn't affect our preparation for the match and we went in there intending to take the game to Curzon, with the pressure somewhat off us as the lower-division side.

It was a quality finish from Regan Linney to put us ahead, but disappointing to surrender the lead so soon afterwards. However, we stuck to our game plan, and it was great to see us get the winner from a set-piece that we'd worked on in training.

Prior to that, we kept up our unbeaten start to the league campaign with draws at home to Scarborough Athletic, and away to Hyde United.

We had plenty of chances against Scarborough but failed to capitalise. We can't have any complaints about the red card; it was simply a poor tackle. However, it was pleasing to see how well we reacted to going down to 10 men, and we still had chances to go on and win the game after that.

Against Hyde, we again started strong and could've been ahead even before Regan gave us an early lead. All credit to Hyde, as they came back into the game and took a lead into the break, helped by some sloppiness on our part.

Dan Cockerline was brilliant all afternoon, and he set up Michael Fowler who created

some space for himself before hammering it home to give us a late share of the spoils.

It was disappointing to not have a game at the weekend, with the Covid situation at Morpeth. Whilst I'd always rather be getting into a regular pattern of games at this stage of the season, it did give us the chance to have an extra training session on Saturday which we made the most of.

We welcome Alfreton Town for this evening's third qualifying-round tie.

The last time we met was at North Street, back in April 2019 – our 3-2 victory a rare bright spot in what was an awful last few weeks of that season.

Alfreton overcame Coalville Town in the last round, before getting their league campaign underway with a draw at Curzon. I don't think there's too much to be read into that –

“ I thought we were brilliant against Curzon Ashton in the previous round of the Cup and thoroughly deserved the victory ”

it's been a strange start to the season for National North sides, and it's probably going to take a bit of time for things to take shape in that division.

I know the way Billy likes to set up his sides, and I think we're going to be in for a tough match tonight. However, we're in good form and whilst it sounds a bit obvious to say, it's really going to come down to who defends best and who takes their chances.

We have some pictures up in the tunnel here, showing great moments from the club's history. One of the ones I often look at is from that famous night at Rochdale back in 2010. We've still got a couple of big hurdles to overcome before repeating the feat of reaching the first round proper, but that's

certainly the goal we're all focused on.

On a club-related note, some of you might be aware that the Chairman of the Board, Adrian Seddon, went into hospital to have an operation over the weekend, and I'd just like to wish him all the best in his recovery on behalf of the team.

There's obviously a lot of rumours swirling about at the moment about what the government is going to announce this week, and what that will mean for supporters continuing to be allowed in grounds in Greater Manchester. There's not much we can do about that, but I would just urge everyone – as you always do – to make your presence count tonight.

Reno

Live stream for tonight's game

For FC United fans who are reading the 'e-programme' and not attending tonight's match at Broadhurst Park, there will be a live stream available for the game, costing £5.

The stream is available to watch via the internet at <https://tinyurl.com/fcumtv-live>

Those booking will be emailed a password (check you junk/spam folders) which they will need to put in to access on the night when it goes live from 7.30pm.

Please note that due to FA regulations the stream is geo blocked and can only be accessed by those with IP addresses in the UK.

Profits from the stream will be shared with Alfreton.



For match highlights, post-match interviews, analysis, and more... visit www.fcum.tv

The FC United boss was speaking to Paul Hurst in the run-up to this evening's match

Broadhurst News

MATCHDAY PROCEDURES

New matchday arrangements will be in place from this evening for those attending games at Broadhurst Park and supporters are asked to please familiarise themselves with the new rules and arrangements below.

Key messages

Alcohol can only be consumed sat down and with orders taken where you are sat. This means you can't drink alcohol in the SMRE, Paddock areas or Main Stand seating.

We're re-opening the function room and we are also putting tables in the North Stand to ensure that all those who want a drink can get a drink (even if it's not necessarily where you'd like to drink it).

Bring a Face Mask for walking through indoor spaces (including the Ticket Office).

If you have any symptoms of Covid – please stay away from the stadium.

Stadium – The Main Stand and SMRE are fully open. The North Stand is open for table service so numbers will be limited (see F & B below). The West stand remains closed.



Food & Beer

There's some big changes here so please read this carefully. Easy ones first:

Kazbar, SMRE and the Sweet Stall all selling what they usually sell. And all open from 18.30pm.

Main function room – only available if pre-booked. Open from 18.30pm and closes after half-time. Full bar and serving pies, peas, gravy and chips. We have tables of five or tables of two available. Table service for food and drink (call the office on 0161 769 2005 to book a table. Enter through the main reception to get your wristband.

SMRE – open from 18:30pm and closes after half time. Table service of food and drink. No drink available from the bar itself. Face masks must be worn unless you are sat at your table.

North Stand – tables of four available. Wristband system in operation to ensure social

distancing. These will be distributed by the North Stand steward. As these tables are outdoor we can have mixed groups. Table service of bottled beers available.

Tables available on a first-come-first-served basis. Last orders at 21.15pm.

The above is not ideal but we are trying to provide enough spaces to drink for those who want to drink. What is really clear is that no-one can drink standing up so we ask for your co-operation and understanding to ensure that this doesn't take place.

If supporters don't abide by the new regulations and attempt to take drink into the other stands, we risk having to stop all alcohol consumption on matchdays and even potentially a further capacity cut.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping us continue to offer you a matchday bar.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Morgan Penfold recently joined FC United on a three-month loan from Football League newcomers Barrow and enjoyed an impressive debut against Curzon Ashton in the FA Cup.



Morgan is a pacy winger who is equally comfortable on either flank and at 6'2" represents a challenge for any defender either on the ground or in the air.

He spent eight years in the Peterborough United academy and made his first-team debut during an EFL Trophy game against Norwich City at the start of 2016-17.

During his time at London Road, the 21-year-old spent time on loan with St Ives, Biggleswade Town, Boston United, Grantham Town, Bedford and Hitchin.

After leaving Posh he signed an initial two-year deal with Barrow in the summer of 2019 and played in the Cumbrian club's National League title-winning side last season.

Meanwhile, Jack Lenehan has left FC United in search of more first-team football.

FC boss Neil Reynolds said: "He's competing for a place in one of the strongest midfields in the league, all of whom are in superb form right now, and he needs to get regular game time to keep his development as a player progressing. He goes with our best wishes."

The former Rochdale youth had previously played for

Chorley before joining current FC assistant Brian Richardson's Prescot on loan and then, subsequently, FC United in the summer of 2019. Aged 21, Lenehan made his FCUM debut as a substitute in our 3-2 defeat at Grantham on the opening day of the 2018-19 campaign and made 33 appearances in his debut campaign – with most games coming from the bench.

This season, the midfielder had made one start, against Nantwich, and appeared as a sub against Pontefract and what proved his final match against Scarborough.

MORPETH & GRANTHAM

Due to our recent FA Cup game at Curzon Ashton, the scheduled Northern Premier League match at home Grantham Town has been rearranged.

The game should now be played at Broadhurst Park on Tuesday 10th November, with a 7.45pm kick-off.

Meanwhile, our match at Morpeth Town on Saturday was postponed due to players in the opposition squad testing positive for Covid-19, with a date for the rearranged game yet to be confirmed.

FCUM MEMBERSHIPS

To become a co-owner of FC United, memberships are available priced at £15 for adults and just £3 for U16s.

Please visit the official website, call 0161 769 2005 or email office@fc-utd.co.uk to become an owner of this thing of ours...



FC UNITED MANIFESTO

Democratically agreed by the club members (owners) in 2005:

- The Board will be democratically elected by its members
- Decisions made by the membership will be decided on a one-member, one-vote basis
- The club will develop strong links with the local community and strive to be accessible to all, discriminating against none
- The club will endeavour to make admission prices as affordable as possible, to as wide a constituency as possible
- The club encourage young and local participation, playing and supporting, wherever possible
- The Board will strive to avoid outright commercialism
- The club will remain a non-profit organisation

OWNERS: THE FANS

- Board Members: Adrian Seddon, Sam Mullock & Dennis Shannon
 - Secretary: Viv Ware
 - Manager: Neil Reynolds
 - Assistant: Brian Richardson
 - Coaches: David Chadwick, Mike Faulkner & Paul Chapman
 - Physio: Olivia Smith
 - Kitman: James Deadman
 - Women's team manager: Kamran Hussain
 - Women's secretary: Rob Fullen
 - Academy Manager: Tom Conroy
 - Academy Secretary: Pete Moulds
 - Operations Manager: Paul Smith
 - Community Liaison Manager: Vinny Thompson
 - Matchday/Team Secretaries: Viv Ware & Paul Delamere
- FC United Limited, Registered Society number 29969R

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FC UNITED0
SCARBOROUGH0

It was back to Broadhurst Park for the third time in eight days when our match at Scarborough saw a late switch of venues on Saturday 26th September, with the Seadogs forced to play their recent home games behind closed doors.

Our season kicked-off the previous Saturday with a 2-2 draw against Nantwich before seeing off Pontefract Collieries 6-2 in the FA Cup first qualifying round. And again FC had to settle for a point on a frustrating and scoreless afternoon in front of goal.

Reno's side looked the more likely to open the scoring but squandered a number of first-half chances before Dan Lavercombe produced a stunning double save to deny Scarborough an unlikely lead.

The second half proved a tighter affair as the Reds sought a breakthrough, but with 13 minutes to go Luke Griffiths saw red for a reckless challenge that brought few complaints.

Despite that, FC still looked the more likely to net a late winner with two chances from distance, before the referee signalled full-time.

HYDE UNITED2
FC UNITED2

A few days later the Reds travelled to Ewen Fields and, once more, the Northern Premier match-up ended in a stalemate.

FC made an impressive start as Regan Linney struck a post before netting his first of the season with just eight minutes on the clock. However, despite signs of early promise Hyde hit back with Liam Tongue levelling around 10 minutes later, and the hosts then went ahead before the break when the tricky winger Paddy Lane punished a defensive mishap.

The Tigers then got the bit between their teeth and dominated much of the second period but, with 10 minutes left, a long punt downfield was nodded on by Dan Cockerline on the edge of the home penalty area, to be met by a stunning volleyed Michael Fowler strike – giving the opposition keeper no chance as it flew into the net via the woodwork.

Reno's side could have snatched all three points late on but were ultimately left grateful for what seemed an unlikely point, and a third successive draw.



CURZON ASHTON.....1
FC UNITED.....2

FCUM reached tonight's FA Cup third qualifying round thanks to a fine victory at National League North side Curzon Ashton 10 days ago.

Played at an eerily quiet and empty Tameside Stadium, the Nash were playing their first competitive game of the 2020-21 campaign as the Reds looked to cause a 'shock' on a wet surface we've graced many times in previous years.

And after a bright start from the Reds, Regan Linney netted the afternoon's opener in the 11th minute. Yet the lead lasted just three minutes as Matthew Waters restored almost instant parity.

FC then appeared more likely to net next but chances were at a premium before the persistent Linney was brought down on the left-hand side of the Curzon penalty area.

Up stepped Ennis who, thanks to a slight deflection, hit the back of the net with his subsequent free-kick. FC then laid siege on the Curzon goal looking to kill the game off.

However, deep into stoppage time, the hosts almost levelled but saw an effort go just over, thus seeing FCUM through to the next round.

THE PROGRAMME



In the previous edition of FCUM we said we'd be printing a squad poster of the women's team in the next programme.

However, in this unprecedented and crazy season so far, where already we've seen two pre-season games cancelled, one away match switched and another played behind closed, whilst suffering limited capacities and having to apply for tickets for the first time in years, it really is impossible to plan too far ahead.

The FCUMW squad poster should appear in one of our forthcoming editions whilst the next programme against Stafford will feature an insightful interview with FC United's head of academy, Tom Conroy.

You will have also noticed that certain editions appear a bit lightweight this season compared to past years.

This is due to a number of factors we've not endured previously – primarily the fact we've got limited crowds attending games and, subsequently, fewer sales.

To minimise print and production costs, we'll be

fluctuating the number of pages in each edition as (or if) the season progresses. For example, tonight's match has just 16 pages but featured no adverts – compared to the now anticipated regular 24 pages for league games (which include a number of necessary league ads).

The quantity of matches in such a short period of time (two lots of three deadlines in eight days, and a potential seven home matches looming in November) will also dictate the number of pages we print for each edition.

Hopefully you'll understand and appreciate the constraints we're under, but we found it imperative to print programmes from the first league match and have been delighted with the content that has been produced so far.

However, due to those limited crowds and sales, it won't be possible to sustain the costs of our printed magazine alone without it being subsidised by contributions made towards the e-programme.

So if you download the programme and enjoy what we produce, then please donate via the link provided on the official website if you can.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has bought the printed programme so far and also to those who have donated towards the online e-mag.

Your support is vital and helps maintain what I hope is an enjoyable read and a pivotal part of our matchday experience – either at home or Broadhurst Park.

TONIGHT'S COVER

The image adorning the front page of this edition is just one of the many wonderful works recently produced by Daz Clapton.

The Northwich Red attends games with his brother Dave and both are FC United co-owners.

Daz has been producing a number of striking pictures and impressive pieces of art in recent weeks, including the wonderful piece featuring Regan Linney, the SMRE, Babes and Munich clock (right) – which has been designed into a flag and has been seen at some early games, attached to the fencing to the right of the Main Stand paddock.



FAN-OWNED CLUBS

K. LYRA LIERSE SK



MATTHIAS HENDRIX tells us about the supporter-owned Belgian club, with questions supplied by Dutch Red Ruud Van de Graaf.

What's the history of your club and how/why did you become fan-owned?

The story of K. Lyra-Lierse is very short, as the club has operated under the current name since June 2018. But the full history of the club goes back to the beginning of the previous century.

As the name suggests, K. Lyra-Lierse has its roots in two clubs from the city of Lier: K. Lierse SK, founded in 1906, four times champions of Belgium (1932, 1942, 1960, 1997) and two times Cup winners (1969 & 1999). And K. Lyra TSV, founded in 1909 spending most of its years before the 60s in the top two divisions, but who restarted down the pyramid in the 1970s after a (first) official merger with Lierse.

The club K. Lyra-Lierse emerged after K. Lierse SK went into administration in 2018, after 10 years of mismanagement under the ownership of an Egyptian businessman. At that moment, a joint movement of several fan groups of the old Lierse started talks with Lyra to form a "new" fan-owned football club to fly the flag of the city, with respect of both clubs' history.

For both clubs (and fans), this was a key moment to make a fresh start as K. Lyra-Lierse. The former Lierse ran out of existence due to liquidation and Lyra was only still driving on a small and aging group of volunteers, making their future more and more questionable.

The club stood for one clear message from the beginning: never again do we want our club to be the "private toy" of a rich owner who treats our club badly. From now on, we are taking our future in our own hands. We are building a financially sustainable club, with a strong focus on local youth development, with a strong social relevance within our city and with fans represented in the AGM and the Board of the club.

How is being a member of your club different from being a fan of a non-fan owned club?

It is a day-and-night difference, to be honest. And given the history we have with bad ownership of a non-fan owned club, I think we can make the comparison quite well...

At the former Lierse SK we saw people turning away from the club and more and more we noticed division between the different sets of fan groups. We now see that we are actively using the capabilities of many people who are also in the stands, for the good of the club. People are getting involved and this brings people closer together.

What level do you play and what support do you have for home/away games?

The 2020-2021 season our club will start Second Division, which is the fourth tier in Belgian football. We got promoted after being in first place after 24 (out of 30) matches last season, before the league was stopped due to COVID-19.

The Flemish Football Association decided that with 80% of the games played, rankings in almost all leagues were giving most teams a right to promotion (or relegation).

We currently need to play our home games in Berlaar, a town at the outskirts of the city of Lier, after the stadium of Lierse was being sold to a private investor. He now has something like a "placebo-Lierse" playing in our old stadium, after a club from 20 miles away moved in there. Also the old stadium of Lyra was demolished in 2014, which has left the club no other option than temporarily playing at the 3,500 capacity stadium in Berlaar.

Despite that, our home attendance varies between 800 and 1,200, and even topping this to around 2,000 for top fixtures. After Lierse went into administration, the old ultra and casual groups of the club decided to follow K. Lyra-Lierse, which now results in a vocal atmosphere which rivals the one of Belgian top-flight clubs.

On our away days, the following varies between 200 and 500 fans making the trip. Numbers here also depend on the opponent we are playing.

What activities do you organise apart from football?

We normally have multiple activities throughout the year (like a quiz and an open BBQ organized by our first team) to

financially support the youth department of our club. But next to that, Pallieter Supporterscollectief (the K. Lyra-Lierse supporters trust) is strongly driving community work that is linked to the club. We've had multiple initiatives over the last two years, going from charity fundraising (for Mental Health and Disabled organisations in our city) with raffles and a nude calendar to actual community projects in cooperation with the city council.

In the next years we will (co-)host two important social projects in our city: Younited Lier (I think you will like that name, don't you?) which tries to put back on track the life of adult people who are in a socially vulnerable position through homelessness, addiction, poverty and migration ... through football.

And next to that we are setting up a project which aims to improve young people's language skills through football on the neighbourhood pitches that are scattered all over the city, combined with football summer camps. In this way, we can also help kids from the most vulnerable groups.

How have you coped with the Covid crisis so far and how have fans contributed in keeping the club afloat?
We shut down all our ongoing business as soon as the FA announced that the 2019-20



season had ended immediately. This helped us in controlling the costs, as we missed an enormous amount of revenue with being in first place and still six games to play – two of which were announced as top fixtures and a possible title celebration match.

Luckily, we have some very skilled and experienced volunteers who are helping out in our financial department, and who were following us very closely. This eventually resulted in a break-even budget for the 2019-20 season, which I think is a job well done given these rough circumstances for all football clubs.

Also this hadn't been possible without some efforts that were made by people within all departments of the club. Our first-team players decided to bring down their wages, which shows that we have players whose hearts are with the club, as 75% of them is coming from either the former Lyra or Lierse youth development.

Next to that, our fans were questioned about raising season ticket prices by 10%, which they unanimously accepted given the fact that our ticket prices are already low and that we got promoted.

Do you have contact with other fan-owned teams and in what sense is that?

Our main contact with other clubs goes via SD Europe, the international network of which Pallieter Supporterscollectief is a member. Next to that, in Belgium, we have good relations with fan-owned SK Beveren with whom we share best practices on a regular basis.

Our fans also share a good relationship with KFC Zwarte Leeuw, a non-profit football club, so not "officially fan-owned" but who were in our league for the past two years. It's always a great atmosphere during the games itself, and both sets of fans joined each other in the stadium pubs each time we played each other, regardless of the result. In other words: the way football should be. Now we have fans of both clubs who sometimes attend each others' games.

What are the short and long-term aims of your club?

We always try to plan and look ahead in five and 10-year terms. In 2018, when K. Lyra-Lierse started, we aimed to gain two promotions in five years. From the fifth to the third tier. After two years, we have managed to get our first promotion, so you could say that we are already halfway.

On a longer term, we want to play football again in our own city. We are therefore having talks with the city council on building a new stadium, close to the city centre, so many fans can get to our new ground on foot or by bike. Also our youth academy is currently located on the northern outskirts of the city, and we plan to move this to the same location as well. A move back to our home soil, the place where we belong, will definitely give our club a bright future.

What do you know about FC United?

The story of FC United and how they emerged is well known among the fanbase of Lyra-Lierse. For many people who support our club, we see many similarities between Lyra-Lierse and FC United. We hope, just like you, to make our way to a brand-new home, while climbing up the football ladder. I think we stand for the same values in football, and I think the story of FCUM absolutely works as an inspiration for us to keep working hard every day to achieve the goals and challenges that are still ahead of us. The future is fan-owned!



Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



Alfreton Town are the 36th opponent for FCUM in the FA Cup and the 24th in a home tie.

All eight previous meetings were in league fixtures, with the Manchester outfit ahead 4-3 in wins.

The best run for both of tonight's clubs is reaching the second round proper. Alfreton did this in 2008-09 and 2012-13, with FCUM matching this in 2010-11.

This is the eighth time we have featured in the third qualifying round in 14 campaigns. The Reds have won five of the previous seven ties at this stage.

Three of those were in replays (Stalybridge Celtic in 2009, Buxton in 2015 and Stockport County in 2017), which is not a possibility this season.

Only one of them was a first-time home win – Kendal Town beaten 3-1 in 2012.

The other was the 5-2 victory

at Norton & Stockton Ancients (pictured above) in 2010.

Of the five times we have won in this round, FCUM lost in the next round three times (2009, 2012 and 2017), went two further rounds once (2015) and three further rounds once (2010).

Our Derbyshire opponents tonight are one division above us.

FCUM have met five sides one step up, losing to Fleetwood Town and Northwich Victoria, beating Stalybridge Celtic, Gainsborough Trinity and Curzon Ashton.

Coincidentally all the three wins were with the Reds in the NPL Premier Division.

Barrow were two steps up when they lost to us in 2010, as were Hereford United when they won at Gigg Lane in 2012.

Chesterfield were three divisions higher when they were victorious at Broadhurst Park in 2015.

Rochdale and Brighton & Hove Albion of League One were four steps up when we met them in 2010.

Having won at Curzon in the previous round this is an opportunity to eliminate two higher-ranked clubs in a season, as we did in 2010-11.

In 46 previous ties none has required a penalty shootout. With no extra-time or replays in 2020-21 that statistic is at risk.

The closest to a penalty shootout was the first qualifying-round replay away to Atherton Collieries in September 2019.

The game was goalless until the 78th minute when Aaron Morris headed in the winner.

The Broadhurst Park FA Cup record is five won, three drawn and three lost. At other home venues, six were won, two drawn and eight lost.

The next goal that FCUM score in this competition will be their 100th.



JOINT LETTER

FC United of Manchester, South Shields FC and Scarborough Athletic FC recently wrote to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Oliver Dowden, to explain their feeling of abandonment as a lack of financial support threatens their very futures. The letter, dated Friday 2nd October 2020, said...

Dear Oliver,
 We are writing to you today on behalf of three Northern Premier League football clubs: FC United, Scarborough Athletic and South Shields FC. We operate at step 3 of the Non-League System, the highest level designated as 'grassroots' under current Covid regulations, meaning that we are permitted limited crowds.
 We have read with interest over the last couple of weeks the developing situation over the National League clubs who made their case that they were not sustainable if forced to play without fans.
 A widely publicised letter to you on 28th September from MPs and sporting authority figureheads made the case that 'in order for clubs to sustain themselves over the winter and keep playing, they would need to be compensated for the loss of match ticket sales.
 The absence of this income is not the result of their actions

but the policies that have been put in place by the government in response to a public health emergency'.
 It would appear that the government has listened to that case with the announcement made to the house on Wednesday by Sports Minister Nigel Huddleston that a funding package had been agreed "to help those most impacted by the 1st October decision" and "will be focused on those most in need and it will be based on the loss of gate receipts".
 We believe that there is a flawed perception that all grassroots football clubs can sustain themselves within the current government restrictions and would agree that this is the case for the vast majority. However, we would draw your attention that a one size fits all approach doesn't take into account that there are a handful of clubs caught between a now subsidised elite and the grassroots restrictions which are in danger of forcing us out of existence.
 Our three clubs are very different but have in common that we are well run and prior to this once-in-a-lifetime Covid emergency, sustainable businesses which focus beyond football on being at the heart of our local communities.
 Similarly to the National

League clubs we provide numerous youngsters with educational and sporting opportunities through our successful academies and we run wide-ranging community projects in our areas.
 This has included substantial extra support for our communities in response to the current Covid crisis.
 The return to football protocols allow for supporters in our grounds in limited numbers well below the levels at which we can be sustainable. Government restrictions allow 600 at our step 3 which is 1,071 spectators below the average crowd at South Shields last season, 1,068 below FC United's and 401 below Scarborough's.
 To put it into context, the number of supporters locked out of our grounds by current restrictions, and therefore our lost gate receipt revenue, for South Shields and FC United is greater than the total average crowd last season of 30 National League clubs and for Scarborough this is greater than three.
 We would make the point that the situation is unsustainable for our clubs at the current government level of restriction but that is not the end of our problems as some local authorities are now imposing their own restrictions which go beyond what was decided by the DCMS.

On the instructions of their local authority, South Shields' capacity is currently cut to 300 and Scarborough have been forced to start the season behind closed doors.
 To compound matters, new regulations brought in last week requiring all food and drink to be purchased and consumed at tables will seriously reduce the food and beverage revenue we also rely on as supporters will no longer be able to take these out on the stands and terraces and we will be restricted to limited seated social club service.
 We note with interest your colleague the Sports Minister's response in the Commons that any club in immediate financial distress should alert their sport's governing body, which all three of our clubs have repeatedly done through the Northern Premier League since the start of the season, only to be informed yesterday by league chairman Mark Harris that there has been no confirmation of any support for affected clubs below the National League.
 We understand that we are only a handful of clubs who have slipped between the cracks of elite and grassroots, but we feel abandoned. We are haemorrhaging more

in lost gate receipts, through no fault of our own, than 30 National League clubs who will all receive financial assistance and we lose that revenue match after match, week in week out.
 We are facing ruin for having business models that rely on high supporter engagement, something which prior to Covid had always been regarded as the way clubs should be run.
 We would ask you to consider that we are good, sustainable clubs in greater difficulty than many National League clubs. Our clubs matter to us, they matter to our supporters and they matter to our local communities.
 We would welcome the opportunity to provide you with detailed financial information to support our request.
 Yours sincerely,
*Adrian Seddon,
 Chair of the Board, FC United*
*Geoff Thompson,
 Chairman of South Shields*
*Trevor Bull,
 Scarborough Athletic Chairman*
*Emma Lewell-Buck,
 MP for South Shields*
*Robert Goodwill,
 MP for Scarborough & Whitby*
*Malcolm Clarke,
 Chairman of the FSA*



PRINTED PRE-SEASON PROGRAMMES

We've had a number of programme collectors enquiring about a possible print run for our online pre-season editions, to avoid their collections having to start at issue four – which was the first printed magazine of the season against Nantwich.

We've priced up some rough costs from the printer and will be aim to produce a limited print run of our pre-season programmes against Barrow, City of Liverpool and Trafford over the coming weeks.
 Also, some collectors are wanting a printed edition from the Whitby game last season, which was ultimately postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak but appeared on the website as a download only.
 One kind supporter has already offered to subsidise much of the production cost, so if you would like any of the pre-season printed editions (or one from the Whitby game that never was), please email 1878unitedmagazine@gmail.com to reserve and order your copy as soon as possible.
 Alternatively, we hope to have a small number for sale from the programme stall on forthcoming matchdays, so mither Tom Stott for any of these if and when they become available!



This evening, FC United will welcome to Broadhurst Park a team that we had met regularly during our five-year stint in the National League North.

Tonight's game will be the ninth time our two sides have played each other since our first match almost five years ago in the National League North, with FC winning four of those encounters compared to Alfreton Town's three and one game ending all square – both teams having netted 14 times during those previous fixtures.

For our first match-up, Alfreton travelled to Broadhurst Park for a mid-February fixture in 2016 and emerged 3-1 victors after Sam Madeley gave the hosts a lead late into the first period before second-half strikes from Meikle, Hones and Bradley wrapped up the away points in front of a 3,338 crowd. FC then gained revenge just over a month later with George Thomson securing a 1-0 win at North Street.

During the 2016-17 campaign, FCUM clinched a thrilling 4-3 success at home in October and then succumbed to a 2-1 defeat away the following March; whilst another goal fest a season later in November 2017 brought a 3-2 win for the Reds before Alfreton secured a 1-0 win towards the end of the season.

Our last meetings came in 2018-19 before FC dropped out of the National North, with a 1-1 draw at Broadhurst in late October preceding a wonderful 3-2 win for Neil Reynolds' side at North Street in April 2019 that provided a brief, albeit false, belief that we could somehow

survive an apparently inevitable relegation. With FC United last season looking for an instant return to the National League North, tonight's opponents finished the premature campaign in 13th position with nine games remaining – 12 points off the play-off places and six clear of relegation.

Amari Morgan-Smith top-scored for the side, netting 15 league goals, and will no doubt prove a big threat to Neil Reynolds' side if is part of Alfreton's squad tonight.

This time around and following a prolonged start to 'elite football', Alfreton only kicked-off their 20-21 campaign on Saturday 6th October, with a 2-1 FA Cup second qualifying-round success at Coalville Town before starting their National North campaign with a 1-1 draw at Curzon Ashton just two days after FC United knocked the Tamesiders out of the Cup.

James Jones netted a minute into first-half injury time and not long after Curzon had opened the scoring to secure their opening-day point, and the other Reds will go into tonight's match on the back of a 1-1 draw at home to Spennymoor on Saturday – with Elliott Reeves striking on the stroke of half-time after Town fell behind on the half-hour.

Finally, Alfreton are managed by Billy Heath who took charge of the first team in May 2018 having previously been in charge of Bridlington, Frickley, North Ferriby United and, ultimately, Halifax Town – where he helped steer the latter two clubs to promotion from the National League North.

FC UNITED PLAYER SPONSORS



MEN'S TEAM

NEIL REYNOLDS
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& Business Advisors

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Oldest Winger in Town

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Course You Can Malcolm

MICHAEL FOWLER
First Actuarial

REGAN LINNEY
Alex Croft

JAMES DEADMAN
KitAid

OLIVIA SMITH
Gally

ACADEMY TEAM

Special thanks to FC United's CATALAN BRANCH, who have sponsored six Academy players – Israel Aghahowa, Alfie Clarke, Osman Agerso, Drayke Holland, Charles Adomako and Kelvin Agyei

WOMEN'S TEAM

CHELSEA PATIENT
Kas & Sheila Kabbani

JESS McCARRICK
Dale Leslie

To sponsor an FC United player, it costs (excluding VAT) £250 for the men's team, £100 for the women's side and £50 for an academy player.

All men and women's team sponsors will have their names printed in each edition of FCUM Review, and will be presented with a signed shirt by their chosen player, along with a pitchside presentation photograph. Academy sponsors will receive a signed picture.

If you would like to become a player sponsor then please email the club at office@fc-utd.co.uk or phone 0161 769 2005.



FC United of Manchester would like to thank our academy sponsors Chantry, whose website can be found at www.chantry.com

TONIGHT'S SQUADS

FA CUP
THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND

Tuesday 13th October
2020



PARTNERS WITH
NORTHERN
PREMIER
LEAGUE

DAN LAVERCOMBE ●
JOSH BROOKS ●
LENNY FIELDHOUSE ●
AARON MORRIS ●
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CURTIS JONES ●
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REGAN LINNEY ●
DANIEL COCKERLINE ●
PAUL ENNIS ●
MICHAEL FOWLER ●
TOM STEAD ●
KAIN DEAN ●
SANDRO DA COSTA ●

Tonight's referee:
Peter Shacklady

Assistants:
Darren Brown
Alexander Kelly



**NEXT HOME
MATCH:**
versus
Stafford Rangers
Saturday
17th October
(3pm)

● JACK ATKINSON
● DECLAN BACON
● NYLE BLAKE
● MORGAN BROUGH
● JOSH CLACKSTONE
● DANNY CLARKE
● JAKE DAY
● DANNY EAST
● HARVEY GRICE
● KIERON HINCHLEY
● BOBBY JOHNSON
● SHANE KILLOCK
● DAVID LYNCH
● RYAN QUALTER
● AMARI MORGAN SMITH
● DOMINIC SMITH
● JOSH THACKER
● BEN TOMLINSON
● JOSH WILDE
● TYLER WILLIAMS
●