

FCUM REVIEW

2020-2021

Pre-season Friendly
v BARROW FC
Broadhurst Park



Saturday 22nd August
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thank you nhs



Neil Reynolds

FC UNITED'S MANAGER TALKS IN THE BUILD-UP TO TODAY'S MATCH

After what has been the strangest summer of my life – and I think that probably applies to everyone – it is absolutely fantastic to have the team back out on the pitch again here at Broadhurst Park.

It is obviously not the same without the fans, but I know just how much hard work is going on to try and ensure that that is a reality again soon, and we are all looking forward to having you all here cheering us on.

Whilst last season came to an abrupt and unfortunate end in March, there has still been a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes.

When we launched the No Drain No Game crowdfunder back in April, we had a lot of uncertainty about how well it would go, given the circumstances. However, we were all absolutely blown away by the response, and the pitch looks in fantastic nick following the work over the summer.

Off the pitch, the major piece of work going on has been the Covid-19 Community Hub, which you may have seen featured in the press.

It was an idea that came about in March, as a way to support local people who were hit hard

by the pandemic and resulting lockdown. Over recent months, with the help of local businesses, we've been able to support hundreds of local residents. I think it's something we should be incredibly proud of as a club, showing how rooted we are in our community, and it's all credit to Vinny and the team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the initiative such a success.

Turning back to footballing matters, the big news over the summer was obviously the departure of Tunde Owolabi, who signed professional terms with Scottish Premier League side Hamilton Academical.

It's obviously a huge loss to us after his contribution last season, but I'm absolutely delighted for him. To be able to play football professionally is the dream for pretty much every lad at this level, and I'm very proud that our club has been able to play a part in helping him achieve that dream.

He grabbed a goal for the reserves in midweek, and I'm sure it won't be too long before he's a regular fixture in the first team. I know that I speak on behalf of everyone at the club in wishing him all the best in his future

endeavours – and I hope he'll be back at Broadhurst Park for a visit before too long!

Pre-season so far has certainly been a bit of a mixed bag. We got off to a winning start against Eccleshill, before being brought down to earth with a bang at Thackley. I left the lads in no doubt that the performance there was not acceptable, even allowing for any mitigating factors.

We were much better against Stockport Town – albeit still on the wrong end of the result – before getting back to winning ways at Fulwood in midweek.

We haven't been helped by injuries to Regan Linney and Dan Cockerline, which has certainly hampered our goalscoring ability. However, we're hopeful that both players should be back before too long.

I'm also pleased to have been able to add another excellent option up front, as we welcome Michael Fowler to the club on a season-long loan from Fleetwood Town.

I've known their chairman Andy Pilley for quite a while, and I happened to bump into him (not literally, thankfully!) in a restaurant recently, and this signing came about following our conversation.

Michael is highly regarded by Fleetwood, and I'd like to go on record to thank them for trusting us with his development in the coming months.

We welcome Barrow AFC as our first guests at Broadhurst Park this season. I think it goes without saying that we'll be hoping to avoid a repeat of the result at Holker Street in the FA Trophy game back in January!

Since then, they have gone on to seal a well-deserved promotion back to the Football League after a 48-year absence. It's an exciting season ahead for them under new manager David Dunn, and we should be in for a real test today.

A lot of work has been put in to making it possible, so for those who are able to watch it today, I hope you enjoy the match on the live stream. Most of all, I look forward to being able to welcome you all back here in person, when we are safely able to do so.

Bring on United!

PRE-SEASON LATEST

Today's match will see a limited number of volunteers in attendance following the FA's statement this week that fans will now be able to start attending games again.

Unfortunately, the decision was announced too late to open the gates to supporters but we are hoping to have a crowd of 600 for our next home friendly against City of Liverpool on Saturday 5th September.

With situations changing on an almost daily basis, please keep an eye on the official website and our official social media pages for any further updates regarding attendance of future games, along with dates and times for our pre-season fixtures.

We would also like to state the the club is not happy with the imposed restrictions at our level, considering our capacity, and we hope and aim to have as many fans back inside Broadhurst Park as soon as possible.

Full match reports from all of our pre-season fixtures can be found on the official website, whilst all home friendlies will be screened live on FCUMTV. So make sure you tune in.



Broadhurst News

SUPPORTER APPEAL

We would like to thank supporters for staying away from our pre-season fixtures so far, despite the obvious urge for many of us who are desperate for a footballing fix after an absence of almost five months.

Restrictions remain in place for fans attending games and we'd like to remind supporters about the importance of adhering to the rules until further notice.

Reds boss Neil Reynolds talked about the importance of staying away, saying: "We need to ensure that safety measures are continually adhered to. The last thing anyone wants is a further delay to the football season starting. With this in mind can I make a plea to all supporters that you follow the strict guidelines and stay away from the upcoming friendlies until we are told otherwise. "The fans are everything to this football club and we all love the interaction and relationship we have built together. However, I doubt any of us could deal with a further setback. I hope you all understand this difficult message. We can't wait to see you all again very soon."



FSA FAN SURVEY

With news that clubs could start arranging and playing friendlies again after a lengthy absence from the game, a poll was conducted during the summer by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) asking supporters of the non-league game about the impact of Covid in relation to matchday traditions, and how the current crisis will affect the approach of fans with regards to attending games in the near future.

Below we feature some of the feedback from supporters of Northern Premier League clubs, and how fans feel about matchgoing during these testing times.

- Survey conducted July 2020 by FSA & Alliance Leagues – 1,200+ NPL responses.
- 88.1% of fans trust their club to ensure the safety of fans.

- 77.2% say they will return from the first game back.
- 18% expect to be back within the first three months.
- Of those coming straight back...
- 71.9% say that being a fan is part of their identity.
- 69.9% want to financially support their local clubs and businesses.
- 59.3% say their motivation for coming back is a desire for things to get back to normal.
- 66.4% of those who are delaying their return by at least one month want to see things managed safely before they come back.
- 42.3% want to see Covid-19 in society drop before they come back.
- 27.6% don't want to be in crowded spaces, as a result of Covid-19.
- 18.9% of fans delaying their return have health concerns.
- 9.1% regularly attend with someone who has health concerns.

FCUM Review is produced by – Editor & Design: David Bergin
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SEASON TICKETS

We've currently sold over 700 Season Tickets for the 2020-21 campaign, with Reds being encouraged to purchase theirs as soon as possible.

With likely restrictions being in place when fans can return to grounds, a lower capacity could mean a number of fans missing out on their matchday experience at Broadhurst Park in the months ahead.

If that is the case then priority will be given to Season Tickets holders once fans are allowed back inside the ground. So if you want to avoid the possibility of missing out then it would be wise to invest now whilst also helping the club and Reno help to plan better financially for the coming campaign.

Season Tickets, along with Ten Match Ticket Books, can be ordered via the link on FCUM's official website.

GAMES ON FCUMTV

Today's match, and all other home games thereafter, will be screened live by our inhouse television channel, FCUMTV.

All pre-season home fixtures will essentially be free to watch but the club is asking all supporters who tune in to our matches to please make a donation to FC United.

Keep an eye on the official site and the FCUMTV page for further details about our upcoming televised games.

ACADEMY PLAYERS

A number of FC United's academy players have been selected by Neil Reynolds to play in our first-team friendlies so far.

Making the step up have been goalkeepers Josh Brooks and Lenny Fieldhouse, along with full-back Tyler Owen and winger Sandro Da Costa. We wish all the players the greatest success for the future and hopefully look forward to seeing them appear more in the first-team squad during the coming campaign.

More news on the first team with an introduction to our summer signings appears further on in this edition.

NEW SHIRT ON SALE

The new FCUM home shirt is now out and available for supporters to order.

Based on the design for Manchester United's 1985 FA Cup-winning top, the new shirts can be ordered online via the Club Shop page on our official website and are priced at £39 for adults and £25 juniors.



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
- GK coach: 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

half-time entertainment

FC UNITED CROSSWORD PRINT AT HOME VERSION

by PHIL BUSBY

CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 4) Popular keeper who spent most of last season at FC on loan from Nuneaton (7,7)
- 8) Leading appearance maker for FC of the current squad with 67 to the end of last season (7,7)
- 9) Popular loanee from Stockport who suffered a bad injury at Buxton last season (4,6)
- 10) Current FC United kit supplier (5)
- 12) Cultured midfielder who scored FC United's first League goal, at Leek, in 2005 (5,7)
- 13) Scored a hat-trick for FC in that final game (see 3 down) (5,7)
- 14) New FC United book by Jonathan Allsopp released this summer (3,3,6)

Down

- 1) New goalkeeper for FC United, joining from Radcliffe during the summer (5,6)
- 2) Scored the dramatic 96th-minute equaliser in the last League game at Broadhurst Park before lockdown, against Warrington (6,5)
- 3) Last season's final game before lockdown was awa against — (5,7)
- 5) Knocked FC out of last season's FA Trophy before going on to win promotion to the Football League (6)
- 6) FC United highly successful summer Crowdfunder to undertake vital pitch repairs (2,5,2,4)
- 7) Former FC youngster who won Barnsley's Young Player of the Year award last season (6,6)
- 8) Former Everton and Blackburn defender who joined the Reds in the summer from Colne (5,8)



GUESS WHO?

NAME THE GROUND



QUESTION TIME...

1. Name the teams FC United played during our first pre-season.
2. Who was our first number one?
3. Who scored the first ever FC United goal?
4. Name the team that beat us in the end-of-season, Supporters Direct Cup.
5. We enjoyed our first Euro away in May 2006. Against who, at what ground and what was the score?



All answers can be found at the foot of FCUM Review's Stats Entertainment page



Welcome to FC United

Introducing the newcomers at Broadhurst Park

Summarising his summer recruitment, FCUM boss Neil Reynolds stated that: "When [assistant] Brian [Richardson] and I sat down and discussed signings, we knew that we had retained a great squad and so it was a case of identifying key players for important positions, and that's what we've done."

Here we reproduce extracts of the articles which initially appeared on the official website welcoming our signings so far...

OLLIE MARTIN

Goalkeeper Ollie Martin, 24, joins FC United following a two-year stint at Radcliffe, where he clinched both promotion and the Young Player of the Year award in the 2018/19 season, and has kept an impressive 33 out of 90 clean sheets in his time there. After being released in mid-April by Radcliffe, he was a player that was of interest to many clubs.

Neil Reynolds announced his signing live on FCUM Radio and he said: "We had a vacancy for the No.1 shirt and I'm a big big admirer of Ollie. I have been watching him both playing against FC and going to their games and the thought of getting him to FC United is really exciting. I got to talk to Ollie about an offer and it wasn't the offer he was looking for but we sold him the club, and he came back to us and said he'd be delighted to take the opportunity to join us. It's been a long-term ambition for him so we've done a virtual handshake over the phone, and I'm delighted to secure a new No.1 who I'm sure will be a fans favourite next season"

Ollie was delighted to be presented with the opportunity, adding: "Very happy to be coming to FC United of Manchester. I loved playing at Broadhurst Park and cannot wait to get involved with the new season. Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome."



NATHAN BURKE

Midfielder Nathan Burke, who joins us after a very successful four years with Bala Town, and prior to that nine years at Liverpool FC.

The 24-year-old has got a reputation as a competitive player and with a strong grounding in the game having come through the academy system at a Premier League club, and playing week in week out at a team which qualified for the Europa League.

Speaking exclusively to Ben Hughes of FCUM Radio, Nathan was asked about his favoured position and style of play: "I'm a box to box central midfielder who can get a goal but I also enjoy the nitty-gritty side of the game, tackling and regaining possession of the ball.

Nathan said: "Last season was the best season we had at Bala and were third when it ended prematurely. I played week in and week out and to get a good run of games in such a strong team was really good."

MICHAEL FOWLER

The latest recruit to FCUM's first-team squad is Fleetwood Town forward Michael Fowler, who has joined us on a season-long loan.

The 19-year-old joined Fleetwood at the age of 17, having started out with Sunderland's academy before completing a scholarship with Premier League club Burnley.

After appearing in the club's Development Squad, he made a loan move to Guiseley towards the end of the 2018-19 campaign and then Reno's former club Bamber Bridge in September of last year.

When asked about his style of play, Fowler stated: "I'm normally used as a target man in the sense of I like to get a hold of the ball and show and show my physical presence



on the pitch. I also like to think I can score a few goals as well; so an olden-day number nine and there's not many of those about nowadays.

"I played here last season when I was on loan at Bamber Bridge. It's a massive club with a massive fanbase."

The loanee frontman, meanwhile, can't wait to get back in action after a lengthy absence, saying: "I'm very excited to be honest as it'll be the first bit of football I've played in about six months, obviously with the lockdown, which is a bit different to the other lads who have been back for a few weeks. But I'm very excited to be playing against good opposition on Saturday.

And looking forward to today's game after getting back to training, Fowler added: "It's been good getting to know the lads, especially before Saturday. We've worked on a few different styles for the game, so I know what my part will be."

DAN COCKERLINE

Striker Dan Cockerline has signed from AFC Liverpool having scored 22 times in 26 appearances last term.

The 23-year-old, who has also represented Sheffield United at youth level, Barrow and Southport, said: "I'm buzzing to sign for FC and just can't wait to get started. I had a really good season with AFC Liverpool and I think a lot of that was down to me really enjoying my football.

"The manager there, Chris Anderson, was brilliant and just said to me go out and express yourself and it was what I needed. The performances followed and it was a great time.

"I got a call off Brian Richardson and my first question was about the dressing room, I know everyone first thinks about the fans and how amazing they are, as well as the players and the infrastructure of the club. But, for me, it was a question of 'Am I coming into the right dressing room? Is it a good set of lads?' And Brian and Reno said they're a really close set of lads which



is vital for me. "The connection with the fans looking from the outside is amazing, the rapport the fans have with the players is something that is really appetising for me so when I got the call from Brian I was buzzing.

"Reno couldn't show me around Broadhurst because of the situation so he sent me a load of Youtube videos and I'd already seen loads of them, looking at the atmosphere and thinking to myself 'Yeah, I fancy a bit of that, it looks incredible'.

"In terms of what to expect from me on the pitch I'm a big lad at 6'4" but I'm mobile and a good mover, and I pride myself on scoring goals but I get the best out of people around me.

"I enjoy linking up with people and while scoring goals is great, if you're winning games and you're contributing to the team as a whole then that's just as satisfying. I think I'll get the best out of the people around me and let's go one better and win the title this season."

Reno added: "He is a real presence and he's quick. People will look at his height and think he's a target man or we're looking for a long ball option but that's not the case. He's comfortable receiving the ball and going in behind.

"He's football rather than money-driven and he's desperate to do well for FC. The key thing for him was going into a good dressing room and he'll get that here and the fans will really take to him."

TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS

Along with our new recruits, a number of trialists have appeared for FC United during our early pre-season friendlies hoping to impress Neil Reynolds and the coaching staff.

Finally, 23-year-old defender Matty Makinson, who joined us during the summer having previously been with Colne, has now left the club.

Thanks to Ben Hughes at FCUM Radio and Tim Browning for the quotes

“Truly humbled”



Whilst most at FC United were sad to see Tunde Owolabi leave our club for Scottish Premier League side Hamilton Academical during the summer, we were also delighted for Tunde who saw his dream of becoming a professional come to fruition after just a season at Broadhurst Park.

Having initially spent a spell in the FCUM academy as a teenager, the Belgian-born Tunde rejoined the club 12 months ago – after a period playing in Malta – and became an instant crowd favourite.

The prolific frontman’s debut arrived in a 4-2 victory at home to Morpeth Town on 31st August 2019, with Tunde celebrating by netting a brace, and he went on to score a magnificent total of 35 goals in just 41 first-team appearances for FC United throughout the course of last season.

Included in that impressive haul were three hat-tricks (including two in his final couple of appearances for our club), six doubles and a stunning four strikes in a 7-0 thumping of Buxton last October – meaning Tunde ran away with the Northern Premier League’s top scorer award last term.

Upon departing Broadhurst Park for an undisclosed fee, Tunde had nothing but kind

words for FC United as he said: “Since my first day, the love and support I received has been absolutely special. I’ve not had that anywhere I have been. It’s a special club full of special, special people. I want to say a massive thank you for supporting me and loving me. I won’t ever forget how it feels representing this club. I am truly humbled.

“I am sad to leave FC United, a place that felt like home long before last season. I will miss you all and I hope I leave with all your love and support. I will always be an FC United player and supporter even though my future lies in Scotland. I will continue to follow the team’s progress and support them during the upcoming season. Thank you once again and God bless you all.”

The recently-turned 25-year-old initially spent a time on trial with Hamilton during the summer and appeared in a number of the club’s pre-season friendlies before the Scottish Premier side completed a permanent deal for the FCUM favourite – who has been handed the number 36 shirt.

With the top-flight campaign already under way north of the border, Tunde was an unused substitute for the Accies’ opening-day match at Celtic’s 60,000-capacity Parkhead at the start of August, with our

old hero’s new side crashing to a 5-1 defeat against Neil Lennon’s champions.

Next up for the club based just south of Glasgow was a home game against Ross County that saw Hamilton fall behind in the 75th minute. Tunde was handed his professional debut with just five minutes remaining but was unable to save his side from a 1-0, whilst in the Accies’ next match last weekend against St Mirren, our old number 9 didn’t make the bench in a second successive 1-0 home defeat.

However, in a last-minute reserve-team friendly arranged between Hamilton and local rivals Motherwell during the week, Tunde was on the mark in a convincing 6-0 victory.

This afternoon, it’s derby day again for Brian Rice’s side who will make the short trip to Motherwell’s Fir Park with Tunde no doubt desperate to get another first-team opportunity to prove what he is capable of.

There will be many Reds keeping a keen eye on the team who have become escape artists in the Scottish Premier League over the last few years, eager to see how Tunde and his new team get on over the course of another season fighting relegation and hoping that our former favourite will prove as much a success with his new club as he was with our own.

All the best, Tunde, and thanks for the memories.



FCUM REVIEW



With the uncertainty surrounding the possibility of fans being allowed into our pre-season friendlies, we have decided to provisionally issue a programme online only to kick-off our home friendly fixtures.

Hoping to keep that matchgoing tradition alive even for those unable to attend games at Broadhurst Park, we’ve faced an uncertain future in many regards about how we can approach this season, and the feasibility of printing a programme in the early stages of this campaign.

It is certainly our intention to reintroduce a printed version of the magazine as soon as possible but in the meantime we hope as many fans can support the programme online, and help us to produce a quality magazine in the process.

For this game, and our forthcoming home friendlies, we’ll be releasing an online programme on the day of each match for fans to download, and are asking readers to send a donation via the link provided on the official website.

In the meantime, you will have noticed a number of changes to the programme as we aim to produce as much fresh material over the course of the coming season, and welcome any ideas or contributions you might have for the magazine.

We’ve reintroduced some old favourites, like Meet The Owners, and are building a nice collection of fan-owned club features for future mags, along with a number of articles on clubs we’ve played on Euro aways since our formation, and how they’ve been getting on since we met, plus much more.

If you would like to get involved with contributing to FCUM Review in any way, or have any ideas, then please send us a message via the club office email address.

Our Covid Heroes



Although there's been no football taking place at Broadhurst Park for almost six months, our ground has remained an active and valued part of the community since the outbreak of Covid 19.

As many reading this might have seen, the space under the SMRE has been turned into an extensive food hub, with a dedicated team of FCUM volunteers committing countless hours in ensuring that the vulnerable and those struggling over recent times have been supplied with some much-needed household essentials.

We will feature a detailed 'Thank You' to everybody who has made the food hub such a respected and valued asset to the community in a forthcoming issue.

In the meantime, here's some pictures showing what's been going on behind the scenes in recent months...



Whatever happened to



The Benfica B team from Friday 29th May 2015

MIGUEL SANTOS

Despite establishing himself as a regular keeper in Benfica's B team, the youth product left in 2016 and was signed by Port Vale boss and compatriot Bruno Riveiro in 2016. A two-year deal was signed but after just two appearances in the Football League Trophy during his first year, Santos joined Dutch club Fortuna Sittard halfway through the 2178-18 campaign. There he helped the club win promotion to the top-flight Eredivisie division as runners-up before signing a four-year contract with Astra #Giurgiu in Romania in the summer of 2018. Spent last season on loan with Astra's league rivals Academia Clinceni.

VITALI LYSTSOV

The Russian defender began his career with Lokomotiv Moscow before being snapped up by Portuguese side Uniao Leiria for the 2014-15 season and spending the latter half of that campaign on loan with Benfica's B team. After joining Benfica permanently, he failed to make a first-team appearance and following a stint on loan with Tondela, he returned to his homeland with Krylia

Sovetov Samara a year ago but endured relegation from the Russian top flight last season. Also represented his country from U17 to U21 level.

MARCOS VALENTE

The Portuguese centre-back was signed by Benfica from his local club Penafiel in 2013 and played in the B team for two seasons. For the start of 2015-16, he joined fellow top-flight side Aves on loan for the season and a year later made a permanent switch to Vitoria Guimaraes. After a season in their B team, he has since made a number of appearances for the first team and also spent periods on loan with Pacos Ferreira and Estoril.

ALEXANDRE ALFAIATE

A youth product at the Stadium of Light, Alfaiate played for three seasons for the B team between 2013 and 2017. Yet following a spell on loan with Academia he joined Belgian Second Division side Tubize for 2017-18. A year later he moved to Lusitanos in Andorra and spent last season back home with the similarly-named Lusitano, who play

in the third tier. Represented Portugal from U16s to U19s.

PAWEL DAWIDOWICZ

A Polish defender and one of the more successful products of this Benfica B team. After spending much of his youth career with Lechia Gdansk in Poland, Dawidowicz was signed by the Portuguese giants in 2014 and spent five years with the club, though represented the B side only. Unable to break into the first team, he spent seasons on loan with Bochum in Germany and Italian sides Palermo and Verona. In 2019 his move to the latter was made permanent with Dawidowicz now making almost 50 appearances for the Serie A club. He has also earned one full international cap - in November 2015 against the Czech Republic - after appearing for Poland from U18s to U21s.

JOAO CARVALHO

The young midfielder joined Benfica aged just eight and broke into the B team in 2015. After a spell on loan at fellow top-flight side Vitoria Setubal during the latter half of the 2016-17 campaign which proved a huge success, Carvalho returned to Benfica where he made his first-team debut at the start of the following season, and played another half-dozen games thereafter. In June 2018, the promising 21-year-old joined Nottingham Forest for a club record £13million and has been a mainstay of the Championship club's midfield ever since.

ELBIO ALVAREZ

Born in Montevideo, Alvaraz started with Penedrol before becoming one of two Uruguayan players to join Benfica in January 2015, for £720,000. But just a season and a half was spent in the club's B team before a return to Uruguay came in August 2016, with the midfielder joining Fenix's B side on a free and eventually progressing to their first team. A move to Uruguay FC followed in 2018, where he has remained since.

SANCIDINO SILVA

Originally from Guinea-Bissau, the winger/forward initially joined Benfica as a youngster in 2007 and made the B team by 2012. He left the club in the summer of 2014 but returned early into 2015. A year later, though, Silva was on the move again with a permanent switch to lower-league Arouca and then spent the 2017-18 season with second division Leixoes. A move to Switzerland and two years with Lausanne then followed but unable to establish a first-team place, Silva joined Armenian side FC Ararat Yerevan in February of this year. Represented Portugal from U16s to U19s.

CLESIO BAUQUE

The tall frontman from Mozambique was spotted by Benfica playing for his local club Ferroviario in 2012 and signed for Benfica in January the following year. He went straight into the B team and then enjoyed some time on loan with Harrisburg City Islanders in the USA in 2014. A year later, and following an appearance at Broadhurst, Bauque was drafted into the Benfica first-team and made his solitary appearance acting as an emergency right-back against Tondela at the end of October 2015. Departing the Stadium of Light in 2016, the forward has since had two seasons with Greek top-flight side Panetolikos and then a campaign at both Istanbulspor in the Turkish second division



and Azerbaijani top-flight side Gabala. This season, Bauque has remained in Azerbaijan but joined Baku in July. He has represented Mozambique on 35 occasions since 2011 and scored five times.

OLIVER SARKIC

Undoubtedly the most intriguing story of those who represented Benfica's B team at Broadhurst Park on 29th May 2015 is that of Oliver Sarkic - who was born in Grimsby and raised in Belgium! The attacking midfielder/forward started out with the Anderlecht academy where he played between 2006 and 2014 before making the move to Portugal's biggest club. He spent three years playing for Benfica B and in that time served time on loan at Fafo in the Portuguese regional leagues, and then Leeds United where he appeared for the U23s. That move to Elland Road was made permanent in 2018 but, after failing to make a first-team appearance and a stint with Spanish third-tier side Barakaldo, Sarkic joined Burton Albion for the 2019-20 campaign and this summer penned a two-year deal with Blackpool. He has also represented Montenegro from U17s to U21s.

DIOGO GONCALVES

The game's match winner when FC United met Benfica five years ago and the only player still on the books at the Stadium of Light. Born on the 6th February in 1997, and

so still only 23 years of age, plenty is still expected of the Portuguese forward who started his football journey with local club Almodovar and then Ferreiras before Benfica came calling in 2008. By 2015, Goncalves had progressed to the B team and made an instant impression, netting his first goal just five days before scoring again at Broadhurst. In August 2017 he made his first-team debut in a victory against Braga and then in October that year played in a 1-0 Champions League home defeat to Manchester United. The 2018-19 season brought a loan spell at Nottingham Forest whilst last term was spent on loan with Portuguese top-flight side Famalicao. Goncalves has also represented his country from U15s to U21s, where he has netted eight times during 13 appearances in the latter age group.

SUBS

Finally, of the substitutes, full-back YURI RIBEIRO joined Nottingham Forest in July 2019; wide man HILDEBERTO PEREIRA had loan spells with Forest and Northampton Town, along with Legia Warsaw, and is now back in Portugal with top-flight Setubal; defender RICARDO CARVALHO plays for Villarubia in the Spanish third tier; midfielder GONCALO RODRIGUES is with Famalicao; and back-up keeper THIERRY GRACA represents Cypriot side Doxa Katokopias.

Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



The 2019-20 season ended up as unfinished business for FCUM.

Despite the curtailment after 32 League games the Reds racked up 73 goals and 53 points, totals not reached in four seasons of National League North participation.

Tunde Owolabi scored 28 league goals, the most since Tom Greaves notched 34 in 2013-14. Owolabi's overall tally of 35 was on course to beat the club record of 45 by Stuart Rudd in 2006-07.

Eight home league wins in 15 games was a massive improvement on one in 21 games in 2018-19. During the campaign, FCUM racked up their 300th home league game, 700th home league goal, 300th away league game, 100th away league defeat and 600th league game.

The visit of Barrow instantly brings back the horror of the FA Trophy clash in January – the heaviest defeat in our club's history.

The Bluebirds were formed in 1901 and have yet to face Manchester United in a competitive game, though the Reds did win 1-0 at Holker Street with a Roy Keane goal in December 1993.

It took FCUM just five years to play Barrow in a competitive match, the FA Cup tie at Gigg Lane in October 2010 when Carlos Roca scored the winner. The attendance of 3,263 was the highest for a home cup tie, and only beaten since by the visit of Brighton and Hove Albion two months later.



For those dreading the visit of the Cumbrians, our heaviest loss in a friendly has been by a four-goal margin. Rhyl thumped us 5-1 at Belle Vue in July 2016. Thackley won 4-0 at Dennyfield earlier this month. At home our biggest defeat was 4-1 against AFC Fylde at Broadhurst Park in July 2019. This was four days after we defeated Bangor 1876 12-1 – our biggest ever pre-season victory.

Barrow are the 10th club FCUM have faced in friendlies who have Football League status. Bury played us in July 2006 and July 2009, Exeter City in July 2012, Blackburn Rovers in August 2012, AFC Wimbledon and Bolton Wanderers in July 2013 and July 2017, Rochdale in July 2016 and July 2018, Fleetwood Town in August 2017 and Oldham Athletic in July 2018.

We lost all 12 of these games but have beaten League opposition in the FA Cup.

HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT ANSWERS

GUESS WHO? Lee Neville. NAME THE GROUND: Holt House, Colne. QUESTION TIME: 1 Leigh RMI, AFC Wimbledon, Stalybridge Celtic and Flixton. 2 Barrie George. 3 Steve Torpey. 4 AFC Telford United. 5 Drew 4-4 with Lokomotive Leipzig at the Bruno-Plache Stadion. CROSSWORD: Across: 4) CAMERONBELFORD, 8) MICHAELDONOHUE, 9) ALEXCURRAN, 10) ERREA, 12) STEVESPENCER, 13) TUNDEOWOLABI, 14) THEREDTHREAD. Down: 1) OLLIEMARTIN, 2) CURTISJONES, 3) SOUTHSHIELDS, 5) BARROW, 6) NODRAINNOGAME, 7) ELLIOTSIMOEES, 8) MATTYMAKINSON.



meet the owners

SIMON HOWARTH

How did you get involved with FC and how did you first hear about the club?

I had already decided to not renew my Season Ticket for United because of anger at the Glazers takeover and I saw an article in the MEN on the proposal and it sounded interesting.

Along with my best mate Jim, we went along to the meeting at the Central Hall on Oldham Street in July 2005. My Dad was a Methodist Minister at the Central Hall during the 80s so I'd spent a lot of time there... but this was a very different sort of religious experience!

We then went along to the first home game against Padiham, fell in love with FC and, 15 years later, we are still regular match goers.

Sum up in a sentence what FC United means to you:

FC United are my team and I feel at home when I am at the match: the antidote to the modern commercial excesses of Premier League Football.

What does the club do best?

Match days and supporting the team. Home and away there is little or no stick dished out to the team and everyone is actively and passionately involved in supporting the team through thick and thin. Standing in the driving rain at Barrow singing for 90 minutes whilst getting stuffed is not 'normal' behaviour for most teams.

What could the club do better?

That sense of family and belonging and that we are all United as equal co-owners. Following the well documented difficulties we went through a couple of seasons ago, it was noticeable that the sense of togetherness was much greater last season and it is so important that this continues. So continuing the transparency and communication and building on that is key for me.



Jeans or socks on first?

Never thought of it before. Socks, I think!

What was your first memory of attending a football match?

It's probably a jumble of memories of sights and sound and smells from when I was 7 in the 1976-77 season.

My dad was born and brought up in Moston as a United fan but moved around with his job. We lived in Stoke and he used to take me regularly to watch Stoke City and then five or six times a season we'd travel up the M6 to Manchester.

Going to United was what I enjoyed most.

We'd set off early, bring our lunch, stop off for to buy some sweets, then we'd join the queue for seats in K Stand which were pay at the gate.

There was always an anxious wait as to whether you would get in with the queue stretching back for what seemed like miles to a seven-year-old and the stewards always used to count back and then draw a cut-off after which people wouldn't get in. One time the cut-off was immediately behind us so we only just got in...very tense.

We had two hours to kick-off and so would sit in our seats and eat our packed lunch.

In my memory, our seats were always behind the goal. I loved watching the ground fill, the teams being named, them coming out to warm up and then the songs and chanting

starting up in earnest. And that was all before the game started.

The game itself always passed in a blur but it was always the colours and noise, the surges on the terraces and the emotions of the supporters as much as the football itself that I fell in love with.

Where do you hope FC will be in five years?

Given everything that is happening with Covid, I think a lot of football clubs will be in trouble and the first priority for FC is to ensure that we aren't in trouble. But I have every confidence that will be the case.

Then we should be looking to build.

We know this league is difficult to get out of but we should be looking at getting out of it in the next two or three years and then stabilising in National League North.

What song gets you on the dance floor?

I love a bit of ska and Madness. One Step Beyond is guaranteed to get me dancing. Not sure my knees thank me for it though.



Do you do any volunteer work for the club? If so, tell us about how you help.

I've not got involved in any serious way other than as a supporter yet. But now that my kids are grown up I intend to get more involved. Along with a couple of mates we sponsor a couple of matches a season and pretend we are big-time Charlies – and I can thoroughly recommend it as an excellent experience.

Where do you stand/sit at Broadhurst Park?

I stand on the SMRE to the right of the goal behind a barrier to rest my pint on.

Funniest thing seen at the match?

It was at a Man United home game, Ralph Milne was playing and a high ball was played over the top for him to run on to.

Ralph got his head down and ran. Only he had run in completely the wrong direction at full pace and only realised when he looked up to see the ball 20 yards to his left.

Best FC moment?

I'm going to pick Barrow away in the FA Trophy last season.

I have never, in over 40 years of watching football, experienced worse conditions than the first half of that game.

I was stood behind the goal and the rain was driving into our faces so hard that as you sang your mouth filled up with rain water!

But I've mentioned it before and the singing and support from the fans before the game in the pub, outside the ground and then all the way through the 90 minutes in the appalling conditions whilst getting stuffed was something to behold. It made me realise why I am so proud to be an FC Fan.

Favourite player?

Michael Potts and his never-say-die attitude.

Favourite past player?

Jerome Wright. Had the talent to play at a much higher level in my opinion, but glad we saw so much of him for FC.

Favourite flag?

I Don't Have To Sell My Soul.



Best and worst terrace songs over the years?

Best: 'I am FC Fan' which, along with 'I don't care about Rio', summed up in the early days why I had definitely made the correct decision to become an FC fan. Worst: 'Oh Manchester is Wonderful'. Not a fan.

Do you collect anything daft or what you consider to be normal?

I've got quite a large collection of Cacti and Succulents, if that counts.

If Reno was coming round for tea, what would you cook him?

Roast dinner is my speciality and Reno strikes me as a man who would like a roast and a couple of glasses of red wine, so roast lamb and all the trimmings.

Welcome to our visitors

This afternoon we welcome to Broadhurst Park a team that FC United met earlier in the year on a rain-sodden afternoon in Cumbria.

That day, on Saturday 11th January and with FC United on the back of a 15-game unbeaten run, saw us approach the game against the National League leaders with a sense of slight optimism as we dreamed of a potential trip to Wembley, whilst hoping our hosts Barrow would be more preoccupied with their assault on title success than Trophy glory.

Yet how wrong we were as the side managed by Ian Evatt played at full-strength and gave the Reds a footballing lesson and serious wake-up call, as the gulf in class was exposed during a humbling 7-0 defeat at Holker Street.

Since then, of course, and with the non-league game brought to a premature end just over two months after our Trophy meeting, the early finish proved a blessing for one of our clubs.

As FC United, sitting second in the Northern Premier, were ultimately denied an opportunity of promotion through the end-of-season play-offs due to the season's cessation, things worked out far better for our visitors this afternoon.

Despite being denied a possible FA Trophy final appearance at the national stadium, supporters of the



club wouldn't have been too concerned as Barrow AFC celebrated a long-awaited promotion after the National League season ended with around half-a-dozen league games remaining, and the table-topping Bluebirds - who were four points clear of Harrogate Town - were awarded the title on points average.

There has also been much change off the pitch as Barrow now prepare for their first appearance in the Football League for almost half a century, with manager Evatt departing for League Two rivals Bolton Wanderers; whilst the previously open terrace that FCUM fans enjoyed a soaking on last season is being covered ahead of the new campaign.

Taking over from Evatt and tasked with overseeing Barrow's return to the fourth tier is former Blackburn Rovers and Birmingham midfielder David Dunn, who was appointed as the club's new boss in July.

Now aged 40 and having made one appearance for England (as a half-time substitute against Portugal in 2002), Dunn made his managerial debut after initially joining Oldham Athletic as a player in the summer of 2015. However, after just nine appearances and the sacking of David Kelly, he was named as the latest in a long line of Latics manager yet lasted just four months in the Boundary Park hotseat before being replaced by John Sheridan.

Since then, Dunn served Blackpool briefly as caretaker boss at the start of this year, after originally being named assistant to the soon-to-be-sacked Simon Grayson, and had returned to his previous role after the appointment of Neil Critchley at Bloomfield Road in March before being lured to Barrow in the summer.

Finally, today's fixture will be the second time that FC United have played host to Barrow, with our first ever meeting taking place almost a decade ago as the Reds welcomed the Conference side to Gigg Lane for an FA Cup tie played on Saturday 24th October 2010.

A crowd of 3,263 turned out to see a solitary goal from Carlos Roca in the 78th minute prove decisive in a 1-0 win, with victory helping to set up a famous first-round tie at Rochdale.

Ex Reds celebrate



Barrow's title rivals Harrogate also celebrated promotion to the Football League through the play-offs in early August, with former FC favourite George Thomson playing a starring role at Wembley.

Harrogate finished runners-up to Barrow and beat Boreham Wood in the play-off semis to set up a final showdown with Notts County. Thomson netted the game's opening goal in the fourth minute and assisted another in a 3-1 success as FCUM's former league rivals reached the League for the first time.

Speaking to the Non League Paper after that man-of-the-match performance, Thomson was full of praise for his former club, saying: "I joined FC United after a loan spell. I loved that club, the fans, everything about it. To have that many fans home and away, there's not many clubs like that."

The forward originally signed for FCUM on loan from Chester in November 2015 before making his

move permanent, and went on to net 32 goals in 72 appearances before leaving for a full-time deal at Harrogate after the 2016-17 campaign.

Meanwhile another ex-Red now enjoying life as a professional with Barnsley in the Championship, Elliot Simoes, was also toasting a fine season after being named as the club's Young Player of the Year.

The Portuguese winger spent time with the academies of Sporting Lisbon and Benfica before joining FC United's youth team as a 16-year-old and made his first-team debut against Darlington towards the end of the 2017-18 season. Still aged only 20, he went on to make 23 appearances for FCUM and scored twice before joining Barnsley in January 2019.

Last season, he scored two times in 17 games for the Tykes, who avoided relegation as a result of Wigan Athletic's points deduction for entering administration.



#NoDrainNoGame



Scroll of Honour

As part of the recent 'No Drain No Game' Crowdfunder, which raised in excess of £32k to renew the Broadhurst pitch during the summer, 66 fans kindly purchased the 'Matchday Programme Roll of Honour'.

Names will appear in this section over the coming games. Thanks to all!

Andrew Allen
Yehuda Ankonina
Stacey Ashworth
John Bailey
George Baker
Emma Ball
Stephen Bower
Mike Bracken
Andrew Brunt
John Butler
Stefano Carlessi
Anthony Carroll
Alan Charman
Simon Cobb
Declan Coleman
Dominic Cowen
Andrew Cunliffe
Stephen de Botte
Sarah Des Forges
Antony Devaney
Piers Dixon
Nick Donlon
Paulo dos Santos
Aled Duckfield

OLD FRIENDS



Kicking off a new irregular series featuring fan-owned clubs that FCUM have met since our formation, we look at a team from just over the Welsh border who we entertained at Broadhurst Park in a pre-season friendly five years ago. Wrexham AFC supporter and 'Shag' fanzine editor RYAN AP DAFYDD answers some questions...

First, can you give us a history of your club before our teams played each other and how you became fan-owned?

Wrexham is the oldest professional football team in Cymru. We play our home games at Cae Ras (The Racecourse) and we have been decidedly average since 1864 – apart from a fortnight in 1978.

Our old chairman Pryce Griffiths sold the club to shady businessmen/asset strippers, who ran us into the ground and nearly killed the club.

Thankfully we had clued-up supporters who fought tooth and nail and we eventually took over after so-called fans (local businessmen this time) bought the club from the first parasites and then proved to be just as bad as the first lot. Wrexham Supporters Trust eventually took over the running of the Football Club a few seasons into our tenure in non league.

What are your memories from the day we met at Broadhurst Park half a decade ago?

Jealousy. I adored (and still do) everything about the place and what you've built. It's a shining light to everyone and a huge inspiration to me.

How has the team performed since we met and what is your current level of support both home and away?

The team is cack, we flatter to deceive for the most part. The majority of Wrexham fans think we have a divine right to be in the Football League because we're an old club. The reality is we have been mediocre at best for most of our existence and non-league is wonderful. The soul of football resides in non-league; no doubt in my mind about that.

What have been the biggest challenges you've faced since then, and how have you coped and been affected by the current Covid crisis?

The biggest challenges facing the club are the fans and the relationship between the fans and the board. We have a Football Club board and a Trust board, accompanying that there are and have been problems.

Provided the Football Club become more transparent on social media and communicate better then things will improve. Along with that our recruitment needs to be better and we need to be seen to actively seek out fresh blood for the board. The danger is we have many fans who spout on social media but don't engage with the Trust or even join the Trust.

Educating fans about the dangers of that boom-or-bust ownership model is huge. We have a lot of fans with short memories who would dismantle the Trust and sell up to the first del boy bidder to chase the dream of league football. Silly billys.



What are the aims for this season – on and off the field – and where would you like your club to be in five years?
The aims for the season would have to be to have a side that is there or thereabouts come crunch time. I think if Wrexham are awarded an extra point for a draw, we've got a good chance.

In five years I'd like to see us as a paragon of fan-owned success, to be challenging in the League and quietly growing.

The potential here is massive. We can't let some chancer in who flashes the cash. Let us build it ourselves with love and dedication. Be patient. It will mean something if we succeed having done it ourselves.

I never want my Club to be vulnerable again. It was heartbreaking last time.

What's your most memorable moment as a supporter?

Playing Real Zaragoza in the mid-80s at the Holy Ground Cae Ras. We drew. I was about 11 years old and it was magical. An evening game and bumper crowd. The old man didn't go on the ale, so that meant he took me.

And away from the match, what have been the club's greatest achievements with regards to the supporters, work in the community, stadia, etc?

We are a very well run Football Club that have started to develop better links in the

community since the Trust took over. We have led the way with our platforms for wheelchair users, and making the stadium more accessible. We are on the cusp of unveiling new development plans for an all-seater Kop as we've been three-sided since the 90s). The biggest thing has to be fighting the greedy businessmen who tried to turn us over for a few quid mind.

The Trust needs to get its act together in a lot of ways, but that infrastructure needs to be preserved and developed.

We need evolution not revolution.

Finally, can you tell us what you know and think about FC United?

I know FC United was born out of frustration with working-class people being frozen out financially, and to me the game at the top is now soulless and a sad shell of a thing. All surface no substance.

Fans felt alienated and unwanted, so left to recreate what they felt in their heart was the true game. A game for all, accessible for working people and with a Socialist ethos underpinning everything.

I'd give my left gonad to have that here.

I think FC United is a beautiful thing and it should be an example to all that we can proudly build a club with Socialism at its centre and proudly espouse those values of love and working-class pride.

Forza FC United. No Pasaran comrades.



TODAY'S SQUADS



- OLIVER MARTIN ●
- JOSH BROOKS ●
- LENNY FIELDHOUSE ●
- AARON MORRIS ●
- TYLER OWEN ●
- CURTIS JONES ●
- ADAM DODD ●
- CHRIS DOYLE ●
- MIKE POTTS ●
- NATHAN BURKE ●
- LUKE GRIFFITHS ●
- JACK LENEHAN ●
- MIKE DONOHUE ●
- MORGAN HOMSON SMITH ●
- FINLAY SINCLAIR-SMITH ●
- REGAN LINNEY ●
- DANIEL COCKERLINE ●
- PAUL ENNIS ●
- MICHAEL FOWLER ●

PRE-SEASON
FRIENDLY

Saturday
22nd August
2020



NEXT GAME AT
BROADHURST:
versus
City of Liverpool
Saturday 5th
September

- JOEL DIXON
- CONNOR BROWN
- PATRICK BROUGH
- JASON TAYLOR
- MATTY PLATT
- SAM HIRD
- CALLUM GRIBBIN
- MIKE JONES
- SCOTT QUIGLEY
- LEWIS HARDCASTLE
- JOSH KAY
- JOSH LILLIS
- JAMES JONES
- BOBBY BURNS
- TOM BEADLING
- JOEL BYROM
- ASH SMITH-BROWN
- DIOR ANGUS
- JACK HINDLE
- NEIL DANNS
- BRAD BARRY
- LUKE JAMES

Today's referee: David McNamara. Assistants: Chris Isherwood & Kevin Mulraine