

# FCUM REVIEW

2020-2021



FA Trophy Third Qualifier  
v MARSKE UNITED  
Broadhurst Park

Saturday 31st October  
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OFFICIAL FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER MATCHDAY PROGRAMME





# Neil Reynolds

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

**It's difficult to put into words what a special day it was here last Saturday.**

We had our game plan to take it to Guiseley with our passing, and we started out doing just that. It was a brilliant run from Aaron to win the penalty, and nerves of steel from Charlie to tuck the penalty away after missing one the previous week.

The heavens opened very soon afterwards, and it got to a point where we had no choice but to mix things up, with the amount of water the pitch was taking on making quick passing very difficult.

I have to give massive credit to Graham and Jimmy – as well as everyone who got involved in the #NoDrainNoGame campaign – as there are a lot of grounds where that match would've been called off at half-time.

We found ourselves under siege for periods of the second half, as we withstood

wave after wave of attack from Guiseley. I think everyone was mentally preparing themselves for penalties as Michael Fowler held the ball up before finding Finlay Sinclair-Smith with a perfect pass.

I've talked about how we sometimes need to be braver and take a chance, and Fin did just that, sparking an absolute incredible celebration inside here. I've had some great moments as a player and a manager but this was right up there – the noise in here was something else and nobody wanted to leave that pitch, despite the pouring rain!

I was honoured to be asked to represent the club at the draw on Monday night on the BBC. It was getting to that point in the draw where you're conscious that there aren't that many teams left, and you're looking who we could still get.

Doncaster Rovers were one of those big-name clubs who

stood out to me still in there, and I was delighted when they came out of the hat alongside us.

The only negative of the evening was being informed by a member of the BBC production staff, about five minutes before we went on-air, that the FA had decided that fans will not be allowed at any tie in the first round.

I honestly cannot understand the logic behind it, and I would love someone from the FA to try and explain it to me. The 'elite'/'non-elite' distinction has already been made, and we've complied with everything that has been asked of us as regards ensuring supporters are kept safe.

It feels like a real kick in the teeth for everyone at the club, and the other clubs affected, and made even worse by how we found out about it. I think it was very poor from the FA. Non-league clubs are fighting for survival at the moment and really deserve better than that.

We obviously went into Tuesday night's match at South Shields on a high, albeit with some tired legs after Saturday's battle. I thought we acquitted ourselves really well, and were unlucky to come away from the game with nothing.

There were some really good performances out there, with Fin having another blinder, and a great debut from Tre Pemberton.

It was disappointing to lose the unbeaten record, but I think if you look at the overall performance compared to the game up there in March, we looked an all-round better side and we can take plenty of positives from the game.

I'm really pleased to welcome Calum Woods to the club, after he agreed to join us in midweek. Calum has had a really good career, both north and south of the border, most recently with Tranmere Rovers. He joins us as part of the playing squad, but will also be

working as a coach with the Academy side.

We welcome Marske United to Broadhurst Park for the first time today. I've spoken before about the strength of that North/West Division, and Marske are no exception – I expect them to be knocking on the door for promotion come the end of the season.

The Seasiders have started the season strongly, scoring plenty of goals, and will be looking to bounce straight back from defeat in the FA Cup last weekend, after a brilliant run in this year's competition.

As the higher-division team, the pressure is certainly on us. Carl Jarrett's side play some good football and I'm sure they're going to give us some problems.

Amidst all the excitement over the last week about the FA Cup, this is a competition we also want to go on a good run in, and we're in for a tough start today.

*Reno*

## LIVE STREAM

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

The stream is available to watch online from 2.30pm and can be found if you visit <https://tinyurl.com/fcumtv-live>

Those booking will be emailed a password so please check your junk and spam folders.

Thanks to all fans who have tuned in so far and, along with the e-programme, we hope you are enjoying the alternative matchday experience we're providing.

Though it's not possible for many of our previous regulars to attend games at the moment, the support of our 'Armchair Army' is always appreciated.



**For match highlights, interviews, and much more... visit [www.fcum.tv](http://www.fcum.tv)**

FC United of Manchester's boss was speaking to Paul Hurst before this afternoon's match





**FC UNITED.....2**  
**GUISELEY.....1**

**The magic of the FA Cup was alive and well last Saturday as FC reached the first round proper for the first time in half a decade.**

As the rain bounced down from kick-off, it only helped add to the spectacle of a classic Cup afternoon with both teams contributing to a gripping encounter.

Guiseley could have netted early on but blazed over and the deadlock was broken from the penalty spot in the ninth minute as a fine driving run down the right by Aaron Morris saw the full-back cruise Kanchelskis-like into the penalty area, seeing his venture forward ended by a clear foul.

Charlie Ennis, for the second Saturday running, stepped up and thankfully found the back of the net this time around in front of a vociferous SMRE, and FC then enjoyed possibly their most productive spell of as conditions deteriorated.

On the half-hour, Guiseley

could and should have levelled after a game of footballing pinball, after an effort that bounced off the woodwork in the FC penalty area eventually saw the ball booted to safety.

With the pitch becoming increasingly drenched and the ball holding up on a sudden surface, a Luke Griffiths backpass on 35 minutes fell way short and Jonathan Wafula capitalised to finish well and level the scores.

Guiseley then gained the upper hand, but a combination of fine defending and woeful, wayward finished saw the game remain all square.

All of the FC substitutions were made between the 65th and 70th minutes and two of those proving pivotal in what proved to be the decisive goal as a penalty shootout loomed.

With 89 minutes of the clock, and the rain still falling but not at its previous rate, and with FC United having soaked up much of Guiseley's pressure, a glorious winner arrived against the run of play.

Michael Fowler fed skipper Potts who played the ball wide to Regan Linney, with the FC



sub laying off to the advancing Fowler. Our No.17 played it to fellow sub Finlay Sinclair-Smith and our diminutive midfielder hit a goalbound effort which deflected off a defender, subsequently wrong-footing the keeper and ending up in the back of the Lightbowne Road net, amidst scenes of jubilation on the terraces, pitch and sidelines.

It means that a decade after our most memorable match at Spotland in 2010, FC were in the hat for the first round for just the third time in our short but so far fascinating history.

**SOUTH SHIELDS.....1**  
**FC UNITED.....0**

**It was back to earth with a bump on Tuesday night as the Reds fell to a slender defeat against last season's pacesetters.**

The Shields defence stayed resolute against numerous FC attacks, and Reno's side were made to pay for their missed opportunities late on when substitute Josh Gillies netted the game's decisive goal with just seven minutes remaining.

# Broadhurst News

**FIRST-ROUND DRAW**  
**FC United have been paired against Doncaster Rovers at Broadhurst Park in the FA Cup first round, with the tie scheduled for next week.**

Full details to be announced after we've gone to print.

The draw was made live on BBC2 on Monday evening, with FC boss Neil Reynolds one of the show's guests.

Unfortunately, just before the draw took place it was announced by the FA that no supporters will be permitted to attend any of the first-round fixtures, meaning FCUM fans will be forced to miss one of our biggest ever games.

**TODAY'S MATCH**

If today's game ends all square after 90 minutes, the tie will be decided by a penalty shootout.

**LATEST SIGNINGS**  
**Reno has added three more players to the FC first-team squad in the last few weeks.**

Ex-Swindon Town, Forest Green and Bath City midfielder Jordan Simpson has signed for the club, after joining the Swindon academy aged six.

Just days after signing his first professional deal in 2017, the now 21-year-old was named as an unused sub in a 4-2 League One defeat against Sheffield United.

However, he joined Forest Green not long after but failed to break into their first team and was eventually released after spells on loan at Hungerford Town,

Havant & Waterlooville, and Hampton & Richmond Borough. He is the son of former City midfielder Fitzroy Simpson.

Moston lad Tre Pemberton, meanwhile, signs after playing for Stoke City, where the 21-year-old had been a regular for their U23s after joining from Blackburn Rovers.

The winger made seven appearances for Stoke's U23s during the 2017-18 season in the EFL Cup, where he came up against his former club's first team in a 1-0 victory for the Potters at Ewood Park, and was part of a team that beat Sunderland on penalties at the Stadium of Light.

A week earlier, 18-year-old left-back Joe White arrived at the club and made his debut in our 1-1 draw at home to Lancaster as a second-half sub.

**FA YOUTH CUP**  
**FC United's youngsters suffered a heavy 6-0 defeat against Oldham Athletic in the FA Youth Cup first round at Boundary Park on Wednesday night.**

We'll feature a report and reaction from youth coach Tom Conroy in Tuesday's edition.

**WOMEN'S FA CUP**  
**FCUMW will host Chorley in a crucial Women's FA Cup third qualifying-round tie tomorrow afternoon.**

Chorley operate one division above FC United's women's team and the tie will take place on the 3G pitch at Broadhurst Park (kick-off 1pm).



**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*



# Where's our support?

**FC United of Manchester, South Shields and Scarborough Athletic have agreed the following statement to highlight the discrepancy between the financial support across the football pyramid.**

**Covid-19 has hit the income of our clubs to a greater degree than many National League clubs – but we will receive none of the £10 million “lifeline” from the National Lottery.**

**On Friday 2nd October, following the announcement that the National League clubs would receive a subsidy to compensate for lost crowds, our three clubs wrote to Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Media and Sport to explain why a number of well-run clubs below Step 2 of the non-league pyramid faced losing far more in gate receipts than many National League sides and were on the brink of ruin in exactly the same circumstances as the National League clubs but had been offered no support.**

This was copied to Nigel Huddleston, Minister for Sport, Tourism and Heritage and was circulated to relevant departments at the Football Association by Mark Harris, Chairman of the Northern Premier League. Our letter



was co-signed by Malcolm Clarke, Chair of the FSA and MPs Emma Lewell-Buck, Robert Goodwill and received support from MP Lucy Powell.

It is hugely disappointing that we have not heard back from anyone in government or at the FA to open dialogue or even to acknowledge our situation. The information from our league continues to be that there is no similar lifeline for clubs below Step 2 of the non-league system even though a number are in a perilous position.

It was made clear by Nigel Huddleston in Parliament that the subsidy, arranged through the National Lottery, is to compensate for lost gate receipts and it was announced yesterday that the National League clubs will receive amounts varying between £30,000 and £95,000 a month for a minimum of three months. This will then be reviewed with potentially further grants available.

To be clear, despite having a small number of spectators allowed in our stadiums, the

restrictions for FC United and South Shields have locked out more supporters (and therefore lost us more in gate receipts) than the following 30 now subsidised National League clubs: Ebbsfleet United, Boreham Wood, Southport, Gateshead, Blyth Spartans, Guiseley, Kettering Town, Brackley Town, Leamington, Farsley Celtic, Alfreton Town, Bradford Park Avenue, Gloucester City, Curzon Ashton, Wealdstone, Chelmsford City, Slough Town, Billericay Town, Dorking Wanderers, Welling United, St Albans City, Chippenham Town, Tonbridge Angels, Hampton & Richmond Borough, Hemel Hempstead Town, Eastbourne Borough, Braintree Town, Concord Rangers, Oxford City and Hungerford Town. Scarborough's crowd restrictions have seen them lose more crowds (and therefore gate receipts) than Curzon Ashton, Oxford City and Hungerford Town.

Our three clubs do not begrudge that those clubs have

received compensation for lost gate receipt revenue. Their argument, that they are sustainable businesses at the heart of their local communities who have been made unsustainable by government restrictions outside their control, resonates with us and we are in agreement that support should be offered in these circumstances. However, we were led to believe in the concept of a football family and a National League System spanning from Step 1 in the National League down to Step 6.

The actions of the government in abandoning clubs below Step 2 and the National League's self-interested negotiations, added to a lack of transparency around decision making have shown this concept up for the sham that it is. Oliver Dowden was quoted that “We are all agreed the Premier League needs to step up to the plate” and provide assistance to the EFL. How shallow those words now sound to us grassroots clubs who have been abandoned by his government.

An example of the sheer absurdity of our situation is that South Shields and FC United progressed to the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup and hosted National League side Halifax Town who are subsidised to the tune of £84,000 a month and National League North side Guiseley who are subsidised £30,000 a month.

We receive zero in subsidy which ensures that it will not be a level playing field, but to

add insult to injury, regulations require that we must split our limited match-day gate and streaming receipts 50/50 with our subsidised opponents.

Our three clubs highlighted that we were a handful of clubs caught between the elite and grassroots with capacity restrictions which couldn't keep us sustainable. Since then the situation has deteriorated for a growing number of grassroots clubs who initially were able to make restrictions work for them. As the pandemic second wave increasingly spreads across the country, grassroots clubs have seen capacities further cut beyond the national guidelines and restrictions or bans on the sale of food and beverage in stadiums and in the use of social clubs.

We don't have lucrative TV or sponsorship deals and those three revenue streams are what we rely on for the vast majority of our income. We understand that the elite clubs can't operate with crowds because of a decision directly taken by government and so government has directly stepped in.

We understand that the growing list of restrictions beyond what was agreed with the DCMS for grassroots are on the whole imposed by local County FAs and local authorities but the government should not side-step responsibility for our situations just because for us the decisions are being taken at a local level. At a time of national crisis, government actions are what are ultimately driving local authorities to act.

This is not just about us but about recognising that grassroots football matters. It matters to our supporters, to our communities and to the wider football structure which needs us as a stepping stone to elite.

We therefore call on the government and the FA ‘to step up to the plate’ and engage through the non-league Alliance Committee to secure additional relief for affected clubs from the impact of local restrictions. This should include measures to compensate clubs for the significant loss of food and beverage revenue by recognising them as hospitality businesses and to recognise Covid-secure environments by raising capacities for clubs significantly disadvantaged by national and local restrictions or else to provide a compensation package appropriate to losses suffered in the same way as provided for the National League.

We also call on other affected clubs to join us in making their voices heard in public and through their local MPs. As three Step 3 clubs, we are an irrelevance to those in power, but as a block of thousands of grassroots clubs, supporters and constituents, we can be heard.

**Grassroots football must not be abandoned.**

*Adrian Seddon,  
Chair of the Board, FC United  
Geoff Thompson,  
South Shields chairman  
Trevor Bull,  
Scarborough Athletic chairman*



# 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 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 and away games?**

For the 2020-2021 season our club will start in the 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 organised 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 neighborhood 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 are 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 are sometimes attending each other 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 that 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!



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# Marske United FC

Today's visitors Marske United have enjoyed great success in recent years and are another North East team with big ambitions since promotion from the Northern League two years ago.

This afternoon's FA Trophy tie will be the first time our two teams have met as we welcome a club who were formed in 1956 to Broadhurst Park.

Carl Jarrett has been in charge of Marske United since mid-2014 and although he resigned from the post in September 2015, he later rescinded that resignation and has remained as manager ever since.

A former player for The Seaside, Jarrett was previously in charge of Billingham Town and, along with assistant Ian Clark, has overseen a wonderful chapter in the history of today's visitors.

Much of club's existence has been spent in local football having initially started out in the Cleveland League, then the South Bank League before joining the Teesside League in 1976.

A league and North Riding County Cup double was achieved in 1980-81 and the title was won again in 1985 before the team switched to the Wearside League. The North Riding Cup was then won for a second time the following year and a League Cup triumph was attained in 1992-93.

After two runners-up positions and a League Cup victory in 1995, The Seaside then secured Wearside League title success once again during the 1995-96 season, whilst retaining the League Cup.

Finishing second then saw Marske promoted to the Northern League Second Division in 1997 and in their first season they finished third and secured successive promotions into the Northern League Division One.

Relegation from that division was suffered two years before FC United were formed, in 2003-04, but eventually the club bounced back in 2011 with another third-place finish to regain



their place in the Northern League's top flight. Another League Cup victory was enjoyed in 2014 and a first Northern League top-flight title success was celebrated the following year. However, like many clubs in the North East until just a few years ago – who wanted to avoid the extra considerable travelling costs incurred through a promotion into the tier above – MUFC declined promotion to the Northern Premier League.

Much work then went on behind the scenes as The Seaside prepared for what they hoped would be a brighter future, and after finishing

second at the end of the 2015-16 campaign, the 2017-18 season would prove their most memorable yet.

Dreams of Wembley were only scuppered at the semi-final stage as Marske succumbed to local rivals Stockton Town in the FA Vase, but it was a season where they celebrated Northern League title success and

subsequently took their place, for the first time, in the Northern Premier League.

That first season in the NPL Division One East in 2018-19 saw the club finish in a mid-table position, whilst winning the North Riding Senior Cup once more.

Last season, after switching to Division One West and before the campaign was ended early by Covid, Marske occupied a play-off position in fifth place, with aspirations of stepping up to the level that FC United currently play in.

This time around, in the NPL North/West First Division, and hoping to make up for lost time, The Seaside have made an impressive start to the 2020-21 campaign.

The season kicked-off with two North Riding Cup matches, with Scarborough being beaten 3-1 and Thornaby 6-0 before knocking North Shields out of the FA Cup 3-0. They followed that up with a 2-0 victory at Crook Town in the second qualifying round and then enjoyed a superb 4-2 success at City of Liverpool in the NPL opener.

It was then back to FA Cup action where

This wonderful photograph is courtesy of Marske United's website and thefootballarchitect.com



MUFC eliminated Trafford 1-0 at home, before a 3-0 win against Brighouse in the league at Mount Pleasant was backed up with another Cup victory a week later – thrashing Consett Town 6-0.

A 1-1 draw at Pontefract Colls was preceded by a comfortable 5-1 three-pointer at home to Trafford again in the NPL, and a 1-0 win against local rivals Blyth Spartans saw them march on in the FA Cup third qualifying round.

Marske then progressed into this afternoon's FA Trophy tie with a comprehensive 4-0 victory at Stocksbridge Park Steels in the previous round and since then have drawn 1-1 at home to Ossett United before last Saturday's 5-1 loss at National North side Brackley in the FA Cup fourth qualifying round.

They were due to play Widnes at home on Tuesday night. However, the game was postponed due to a technical problem at the ground following work on the floodlights.

It means that Marske United sit just outside the play-off places in the Northern Premier's North/West Division, occupying seventh place and

having played fewer games than all of the sides above them in the standings.

From their opening five league games, they remain unbeaten so far with three wins and two draws, netting 14 times and conceding five, and look well set for an automatic push for promotion into the Northern Premier League's Premier Division.

Finally, the football team have been playing at the picturesque and wonderfully named Mount Pleasant ground since their formation by members of the nearby Marske Cricket Club almost 70 years ago.

However, with no replays in the competition this season, and today's tie having to be settled after 90 minutes (or penalties), we won't have to worry about another long trek to the North Sea again for a replay next week.

The Mount Pleasant ground is cosily hemmed in by gardens situated on two sides and a conifer hedge providing the backdrop to one goal. It has a capacity of around 2,500, with the main stand providing seating for 167 spectators.



# Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



**FCUM are safely into the first round proper of the FA Cup for the third time. How does their FA Trophy record compare?**

In the FA Cup the Reds have won 26 of 48 ties (54%). They have had two exits in the first tie (Nantwich Town in 2008 and Chorley in 2013). Six exits in the second tie (Fleetwood Town in 2007, Lancaster City in 2011 and 2014, Harrogate Town in 2016, Witton Albion in 2018 and Warrington Town in 2019). One exit in the third tie (AFC Telford United in 2017). Three exits in the fourth tie (Northwich Victoria 2009, Hereford United 2012 and Chesterfield 2015). One exit in the sixth tie (Brighton & Hove Albion in 2010).

The current run has seen FC United negotiate four ties so far. A total of 13 from 27 games at home have been won (48%). They have scored 101 goals in 48 games (2.1 per game).

- In the FA Trophy they have won 20 of 40 (50%).
- Six exits in the first tie (Bradford PA in 2007, Witton Albion in 2013, AFC Telford United in 2015, Nuneaton Town in 2016, Marine in 2017 and Hereford in 2018).
- One exit in the second tie (Stamford in 2012).
- Three exits in the third tie (Boston United in 2008, Harrogate Town in 2009 and Hinckley United in 2010).
- One exit in the fourth tie (Guiseley in 2011).
- One exit in the fifth tie (Barrow in 2020, below).
- One exit in the seventh tie (Torquay United in 2015).
- Fourteen of 22 of games at home have been won (64%).
- They have scored 76 goals in 40 games (1.90 per game).



- The FA Trophy has provided the longest cup run and indeed had we won the quarter-final at Plainmoor in 2015 the club were a tantalising 180 minutes away from Wembley.
- Based on past results, Marske United have a much better chance of knocking us out in this tie than they would have had in later ties.
- Seven of 13 exits have come in the first two ties.
- FC have had 13 seasons in each competition and have played eight more games in the FA Cup before today.
- In combined national knockout competitions, we played a club record 11 matches in 2014-15, nine in the Trophy and two in the FA Cup.

# FC UNITED PLAYER SPONSORS



## MEN'S TEAM

**NEIL REYNOLDS**  
The Scarf Family

**BRIAN RICHARDSON**  
Peter Ross & Co, Accountants & Business Advisors

**DAVID CHADWICK**  
Les Croft

**MIKE FAULKNER**  
Renov-8 Aeronautical Groundlighting Civils Ltd

**DAN COCKERLINE**  
Stockport Branch

**DAN LAVERCOMBE**  
Main Stand Crew, Cheshire Branch

**MICHAEL POTTS**  
The Scarf Family

**ADAM DODD**  
Gary Nelson

**TRE PEMBERTON**  
Belle Vue Vinyl Night

**LUKE GRIFFITHS**  
Jane & Steve Wood

**MICHAEL DONOHUE**  
Stockport Branch

**JOE WHITE**  
POD PR & Marketing

**PAUL ENNIS**  
FCUth

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Helen Goldsmith, Keg & Tim Workman

**AARON MORRIS**  
Claire Croft

**FINLAY SINCLAIR-SMITH**  
Oldest Winger in Town

**MORGAN HOMSON-SMITH**  
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

**KATE O'GARA**  
Helgerson Solutions

**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 Chauntry, whose website can be found at [www.chauntry.com](http://www.chauntry.com)**



# TODAY'S SQUADS

THE BUILDBASE FA TROPHY  
THIRD QUALIFYING ROUND

Saturday 31st October  
2020



DAN LAVERCOMBE ●  
JOSH BROOKS ●  
TOM STEAD ●  
KAIN DEAN ●  
AARON MORRIS ●  
JOE WHITE ●  
CURTIS JONES ●  
ADAM DODD ●  
CHRIS DOYLE ●  
MICHAEL POTTS ●  
LUKE GRIFFITHS ●  
JORDAN SIMPSON ●  
TRE PEMBERTON ●  
MORGAN PENFOLD ●  
MIKE DONOHUE ●  
MORGAN HOMSON-SMITH ●  
FINLAY SINCLAIR-SMITH ●  
REGAN LINNEY ●  
DANIEL COCKERLINE ●  
PAUL ENNIS ●  
MICHAEL FOWLER ●  
SANDRO DA COSTA ●

Today's referee:  
Nik Storey

Assistants:  
Daniel Barclay  
Tom O'Brien

**BP BOOST**  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

NEXT HOME  
MATCH:  
versus  
Warrington Town  
Tuesday  
3rd November  
(7.45pm)

RYAN CATTERICK ●  
LIAM WATSON ●  
MATTHEW WILKINSON ●  
KEVIN BURGESS ●  
NICK HOOD ●  
ANDREW MAY ●  
LIAM O'SULLIVAN ●  
CONNOR SMITH ●  
ADAM WHEATLEY ●  
JACK BLACKFORD ●  
GLENN BUTTERWORTH ●  
BILLY CLARK ●  
MATTHEW GARBUTT ●  
CRAIG GOTT ●  
LEWIS MALONEY ●  
DAVID McTIERNAN ●  
CURTIS ROUND ●  
ADAM BOYES ●  
LOUIS JOHNSON ●  
MATTY TYMON ●  
●  
●