

FOUM REVIEW

2020-2021

Pre-season Friendly
v CITY OF LIVERPOOL
Broadhurst Park



Saturday 5th September
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TODAY'S MATCH IS SPONSORED BY COURSE YOU CAN MALCOLM

OFFICIAL FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER MATCHDAY PROGRAMME



Neil Reynolds

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

I'm delighted to be able to welcome supporters back to Broadhurst Park today. Whilst it may not be the big crowd that we are used to, I think we should all be extremely proud of the work that the club has done, and continues to do, to make this possible today.

Things are obviously very different to what we're used to, so I'd just like to ask everyone to please be patient with staff and volunteers whilst everyone gets used to the new arrangements.

When we were last here a fortnight ago, we earned a creditable draw against Barrow. I thought our lead

was very well-deserved and we looked really good throughout the first half.

The difference after Barrow made their mass substitution was obvious, but I was really pleased with the way we kept our heads up and got back on level terms with a really well-taken goal from Matt van Wyk.

I had a good chat with David Dunn and his coaching staff after the game, and they were very complimentary of the way we played, as we were of them. I wish them all the best on their return to the Football League.

We followed that up with a solid victory at Longridge

Town. I thought we had some great performances all over the pitch, and it was great to see Regan get on the scoresheet, along with Michael Fowler bagging his first goal for the club.

I really enjoyed going back to Clitheroe on Bank Holiday Monday, a club where I spent a good chunk of my playing career and where I got my first proper managerial experience. It ended up being an entertaining game and the draw was probably a fair result on reflection.

We then went to Marine on Wednesday night, and it probably ended up being just one game too far after a busy few days. I thought we

were good value for the lead and was particularly pleased to see Fin Sinclair-Smith get on the scoresheet after some great performances throughout pre-season.

However as the game wore on, we just looked a bit leggy and it cost us. I don't think a 4-1 scoreline was necessarily a fair reflection of the game overall, but we dust ourselves off in preparation for today's game.

It's always great to host another supporter-owner club here at Broadhurst Park, and I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone from City of Liverpool FC today.

Formed in 2015, the Purps picked up an absolute raft of trophies at the North West Counties level, before winning promotion to the Northern Premier League in 2019.

It was a tough step up in their first season, as it is for so many clubs making that jump, and they'll be looking to show their class this coming season.

I think we can expect a good challenge today from Craig Robinson's side – and I suppose there's always that bit of added spice when you have teams from Manchester and Liverpool coming up against one another!

After today, we have just one more friendly scheduled, against Trafford on Tuesday night.

As a manager, I generally prefer not having a friendly in the last week before the season starts.

You want to avoid someone picking up a knock and missing the start of the season, and that's particularly important with us heading straight into the FA Cup a few days after the opening league match.

After Tuesday we're focused on working hard in training as we build up to the opening match against Nantwich Town. I'm now broadly settled on the squad I see going into the season, and it's important to allow that side to gel, as we looked to build on the successes of last season.



Any supporters unable to attend today's game can watch a live stream, which will begin at 2.30pm, via the following link <https://tinyurl.com/fcum-vs-col>

NPL FIXTURES 20-21

SEPTEMBER

19	Nantwich Town	(H)
26	Scarborough Athletic	(A)
29	Hyde United	(A)

OCTOBER

3	Grantham Town	(H)
10	Morpeth Town	(A)
17	Stafford Rangers	(H)
20	Lancaster City	(H)
24	Whitby Town	(A)
27	South Shields	(A)

NOVEMBER

3	Warrington Town	(H)
7	Bamber Bridge	(A)
14	Stalybridge Celtic	(H)
17	Mickleover	(H)
21	Buxton	(A)
28	Atherton Collieries	(H)

DECEMBER

5	Basford United	(A)
12	Gainsborough Trinity	(A)
19	Ashton United	(H)
26	Witton Albion	(H)

JANUARY

1	Radcliffe	(A)
9	Scarborough Athletic	(H)
16	Matlock Town	(A)
23	Bamber Bridge	(H)
30	Warrington Town	(A)

FEBRUARY

6	South Shields	(H)
13	Stalybridge Celtic	(A)
20	Lancaster City	(A)
23	Whitby Town	(H)
27	Morpeth Town	(H)

MARCH

6	Stafford Rangers	(A)
13	Mickleover	(A)
20	Buxton	(H)
23	Basford United	(H)
27	Atherton Collieries	(A)

APRIL

3	Hyde United	(H)
5	Ashton United	(A)
10	Matlock Town	(H)
17	Nantwich Town	(A)
24	Gainsborough Trinity	(H)

MAY

1	Witton Albion	(A)
3	Radcliffe	(H)
8	Grantham Town	(A)

Broadhurst News

SEASON TICKETS

Due to the recent statement issued by the government with regards to limiting club attendances in the non-league game, FC United have taken the decision to temporarily suspend the sale of Season Tickets and Ten Match Ticket Books for the foreseeable future, having already sold 900 in total.

Restrictions

As you will now be aware, new government guidelines have allowed a return to stadiums for a limited number of spectators with capacities for Step 3 clubs set at 600 for all teams in our league.

There are no target dates for increasing capacities but the NPL have assured us they are lobbying for the percentage to be changed to 30% of actual capacity (rather than minimum ground grading at our level), which would increase Broadhurst Park's to around 1,400.

The earliest expected review is October, meaning we are likely to begin the league campaign with a 600 capacity.

Cuts & limitations

These capacity cuts are unprecedented and there is no way they work for us as a club,



but we must adhere to them with it being emphasised to all clubs that capacities will be further cut very quickly if there are any issues with breaking the rules imposed.

The board took the following decisions following consultations with key staff and volunteers:

Further sales of TMTBs were suspended immediately. This will not affect those who have already bought one and we anticipate restarting sales when our capacity is increased (hopefully in October).

Season Ticket sales were then suspended once we reached a total number of 900 combined Season Ticket & TMTBs. Again we anticipate restarting sales once our capacity increases.

The number of STs and TMTBs has been set at 900, even though our capacity is set at 600 as we run at an average of 40% season ticket

absenteeism rate. TMTB are for 10 tickets over a 21-game season and won't all be used at once, and Season Ticket holders with a matchday role (such as turnstile operators, steward, board members etc) will not count in the 600 capacity as it excludes essential staff and volunteers. This will be reviewed after initial games to see if we can put any more Season Tickets on sale.

We do not anticipate having tickets to sell on a match by match basis to home fans whilst the capacity is 600. Once it increases (hopefully to 1,400 in October) then this will be reviewed and we anticipate having individual match ticket sales available at this point. But there is a likelihood games will be all-ticket with no sales on the day.

The Northern Premier League has instructed that away-ticket allocations for

NPL matches will be agreed mutually between clubs. But if agreement can't be reached, FA Cup rules apply which will grant away fans 15% of the opposition ground.

Whilst the capacity is cut to 600, FC United will offer away clubs the 15% benchmark (currently 90 tickets) and seek that as a minimum for our fans. This will be reviewed following any cut or increase in capacity. This will also apply to pre-season matches.

Away league games

For away league matches we will obtain a minimum of 90 tickets if the match is all-ticket and we intend to hold a priority sales period for 2020/21 current club members – with any remaining tickets on general sale.

Since publication of our Northern Premier League fixtures, discussions are taking place with regards to how this can prove feasible.

Trafford FC friendly

Our next home game will be on Tuesday night against what should have been our opponents in the Manchester Premier Cup final, Trafford (kick-off 7.45pm).

A limited number of tickets are available for fans to purchase on general sale via the official website.

Supporters will need to book tickets online with collection on the day of the match from the cabin outside the ground – which will operate a socially distanced one-way queuing system for Covid safety.

Meanwhile, an announcement will be made on Monday evening as to whether there will be any tickets available to purchase on the day of the game.

Allow more time than usual to collect tickets and enter the ground.

Please keep an eye on the official FC United website and social media for full ticket arrangements.

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 site and are priced at £39 for adults and £25 juniors.



MEMBERSHIPS

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

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



FC UNITED MANIFESTO

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

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

OWNERS: THE FANS

Board Members: Adrian Seddon, Sam Mullock & Dennis Shannon
 Secretary: Viv Ware
 Manager: Neil Reynolds
 Assistant: Brian Richardson
 Coaches: David Chadwick & Mike Faulkner
 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

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half-time entertainment

FC UNITED CROSSWORD PRINT AT HOME VERSION

By PHIL BUSBY



CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 4) Matt Van Wyk has played for and against FC so far this season. Which team did he play against us for (7,8)
- 6) Recently voted in as centre-forward for the all-time FC Legends squad (3,7)
- 8) Scored FC's first home goal of the season recently with the opener against Barrow (5,6)
- 10) From The Banks of the River Irwell to the shores of where? (6)
- 11) Central defender who made 10 appearances for FC in 2006. His last game was when red carded against Quorn (4,5)



Down

- 1) Started last season as FC keeper before joining Atherton Collieries later in the season (5,7)
- 2) Keeper promoted from FC Academy squad to the first team recently (4,6)
- 3) Feet like lightning, and recently the subject of a 15 Years Of FC interview. (6,4)
- 5) Southern opposition for FC in last year's pre-season Supporters Direct Cup game (7,4)
- 6) Chaddy was recently back on the pitch as a late substitute in which pre-season game? (8)
- 7) Lancashire club who hosted FC for a pre-season game at their Inglewhite Road ground (9,4)
- 9) Forward that arrived at FC United on a season-long loan from Fleetwood recently (7,6)



GUESS WHO?

QUIZ

Some questions on last season...

1. Tunde Owalabi was clearly our top scorer last term, but how many goals did he notch in all competitions?
2. Before Tunde's arrival, who started the first league game wearing the number nine shirt?
3. Our first victory arrived against which team?
4. And our biggest success came against who, where, and what was the score?
5. Finally, our biggest defeat was against which team and, again, name by what score and what ground?



NAME THE GROUND

All answers can be found at the foot of our Stats Entertainment page

Welcome to our visitors



Today's visitors to Broadhurst Park, and fellow fan-owned club, City of Liverpool only kicked off life as a football club four years ago but have already enjoyed a considerable amount of success during their short existence.

Unlike another fan-owned club from the area, AFC Liverpool, the Purps were not created with the aim of solely attracting Liverpool FC fans but for all local football fans, whether they be of a blue or red persuasion. Consequently, the club's colours (and nickname) are an amalgamation of those adorned by Merseyside's two biggest clubs whilst also representing the city of Liverpool's civic colour. Talks had initially started a few years before formation between a group of friends interested in creating a new non-league football club that would be based within the

boundaries of Liverpool and easily accessible as a fan-owned club for all of the city's inhabitants. After considering names like Liverpool City FC and Merseyside FC, it was eventually decided to call the newly-created club City of Liverpool FC - who are now also commonly known as CoL. In December 2015, it was decided that an application would be made to the North West Counties League. This was rejected, so CoL applied to the Liverpool County League. However the demise of Northwich Flixton Villa meant that CoL were eventually accepted into the NWCL First Division for the start of the 2016-17 season. The original aim of playing within the city's boundaries, however, didn't come to fruition due to a lack of suitable facilities in Liverpool and so a ground-sharing agreement was

arranged with Sefton-based Bootle FC, where CoL have played their home games since whilst continuing to seek a more permanent base and a ground they can call their own. Former Runcorn Town boss Simon Burton was appointed as the club's first manager and life kicked-off with a 3-2 victory away to Cymru Alliance side Prestatyn Town. A fine start in the league then saw CoL top the table before Christmas and after falling away towards the end of their debut campaign, the club eventually finished fourth but qualified for the promotion play-offs where a 3-0 final victory against Litherland REMYCA saw them reach the NWC Premier at the first time of asking. A memorable first year was also topped off as the Purps celebrated success in two cup competitions – beating Sandbach United 1-0 in the First Division Challenge Cup

final (for their first piece of silverware) and completing an impressive treble with a League Challenge Cup triumph on spot-kicks against Barnoldswick Town.

The 2017-18 campaign then saw another trophy added to the collection as CoL defeated Atherton Collieries on penalties in the league's Champions Cup – a curtain raiser played between winners of the NWC Premier and the Challenge Cup.

Another fourth-placed finish meant that City of Liverpool were denied a second successive promotion but the season was made memorable by a debut FA Cup run which saw the higher-ranked Prescot Cables annihilated 8-2 following a draw in the original first qualifying-round match (and the club's first in the competition), before Nantwich Town eventually prevailed in the next round with a last-minute winner to snatch a 2-1 victory.

The first of those home games against Prescot attracted the club's highest crowd of 956, which was then bettered against the Dabbers as 1,022 helped set an attendance record for CoL.



The summer of 2018 saw Burton leave the club, to be replaced as player-boss by Craig Robinson who enjoyed a glorious first season in charge. Seemingly running away with the title at the halfway point of the 2018-19 season, a fine run from NWC Premier title rivals and landlords Bootle set up a nervous finale – especially after Bootle secured a crucial victory during an Easter weekend derby match that saw a new CoL record crowd of 1,344.

That game saw Bootle go top by a solitary point with just a game remaining, yet a 2-0 victory for City of Liverpool at Irlam coupled with Bootle capitulating in a 1-1 draw at home to Northwich Vics meant the Purps snatched a thrilling title triumph on the final day. Hopes of a double success, however, were ended with a late Macron Cup final defeat against 1874 Northwich, yet the club did enjoy its finest run in the FA Cup after disposing of Silsden, Glossop North End and Squires Gate before eventually losing at National



North side Chester in the second qualifying round. Promoted to the Northern Premier League Division One North West for the start of the 2019-20 season, CoL bade farewell to the North West

Counties with a Challenge Cup success against old foes 1874 Northwich – making it an impressive six trophy triumphs in just three highly successful years.

Stepping up to the Northern Prem, though, subsequently proved a big challenge last season and for the first time in their short history, City of Liverpool struggled throughout 2019-20 before the season was brought to an abrupt end and the team lying in 16th position – just two places and five points above the relegation spots.

Last season's FA Cup campaign did prove more fruitful for today's visitors who eliminated Champion FC and Skelmersdale to again reach the first qualifying round, where the Purps were drawn away to FCUM's league rivals Warrington Town. CoL were just moments away from what would have been their finest ever result as they led 2-1 at the Cantilever. Yet a last-minute leveler forced a replay where Warrington eventually prevailed 4-0 in a match that saw City of Liverpool once more break their record home gate, with 1,099 in attendance.

City of Liverpool



City of Liverpool co-owner SEAN LINDBLAD answers some questions about the fellow fan-owned that FCUM will face this afternoon...

Please tell us about your club?

The original idea for City of Liverpool can be traced back to 2008. It was an idea amongst like-minded individuals that was mooted around for a number of years until a meeting in November 2014, when the club began to take some sort of shape. At this meeting a timetable was arranged of 21 months to put everything in place with the aim to have a team on the pitch in the North West Counties league by August 2016.

During that 21 months, interest in the club grew through social media channels and COLFC were officially set up as a supporter-owned club. A groundshare arrangement with Bootle FC was secured, however our original application to play at Step 6 was rejected by the FA after a three-man delegation went down to Wembley to state our case for acceptance. We were placed in at Step 7 of the non-league pyramid, not Step 6 as we requested. However, Northwich Manchester Villa resigned from the league at the last minute and the FA confirmed we could appeal. On June 8th 2016, it was back to Wembley to formally lodge our appeal

with the FA committee. A few hours later and much to the bemusement of the local patrons in a pub near Birmingham train station, two Scousers began celebrating like mad – we had received news that we would be admitted to the North West Counties League to play our first season in August 2016!

What is the level of support for home and away games, and also how many members do you have?

Last season our home attendances averaged about 400-500, always weather-dependent, of course. We have a hearty number of Purps who love an awayday and roughly 100 on average will make a trip. We have numerous memberships depending on the level that somebody wants to be involved, from a full membership including season tickets to just a standard membership. Each member owns one share and has voting rights. All in I think we have over 500 memberships including our International Brigade members.

What have been the highlights watching City of Liverpool so far?

We've had our fair share of highlights since our first season in 2016. That first season we won two cups and won the play-offs to get

promoted (we certainly count it as a Treble!). To go from having no squad nine months earlier to three cups the following May was beyond our wildest dreams.

Winning the league to get promoted out of the North West Counties on the last day at Irlam is another. We won then had to wait to see if our rivals (and landlords) Bootle dropped points. When the news came through the let-off was incredible. I think one of the main challenges on the pitch was every game was competitive. We were a new team with a big following so every team wants to take points off you. We couldn't let our performances drop as teams would punish you. Off the pitch I think getting to grips with just how much goes into getting 11 players on the pitch on a Saturday was a learning curve - all the work that is required behind the scenes by the chairman, directors and volunteers.

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

Short-term for me is just to be as competitive as we can on the pitch. Its a big step up in class from North West Counties to Northern Premier so being able to establish ourselves at this level is key.

Long-term, of course, is our own ground. Having our stadium rather than groundsharing is something we all want. We already have an agreement on some land with the local councils and the club is continuing to push forward but as always these things take time (*plans for the Fazakerley site being pictured below right*).

What do you feel are the main differences between supporting a fan-owned and non fan-owned club?

For me by owning a share in the club I am part of the club. It's not some random owner who can do as they please with the club. It belongs to us, the community, and because it belongs to us we are the key to its development. Fan ownership to me encourages those to get involved beyond just going the match on a Saturday.

By volunteering and helping the club in any way I can, I am not only contributing in a small way to our success on the pitch but I'm helping those within my community off the pitch.

If City of Liverpool wasn't fan-owned I definitely wouldn't be as involved as I am. But because I share in the ownership I share in the responsibility to help grow and develop the club.

Can you tell us about any community initiatives in place at your club?

On a matchday we have a foodbank for fans to donate to. We host local groups at home games so they can fundraise and promote themselves, be it local charities or junior football teams.

We now also run a community facility for local sports teams and community groups called PurpleHub, providing excellent and affordable sports facilities for the community to access as well as being a training base for all the COLFC teams from juniors to our first team.

The club has a number of schemes led by our incredible City of Liverpool Community team. We have sessions for youngsters on a Saturday morning called Purple Kicks. Sean Linblad and Mike Meadows do incredible work putting on regular sessions of fitness, walking football and for our refugee team. The refugee team does a session once a week and it's a chance for those lads who are anxiously awaiting news of their asylum applications to come down and have a game, meet others going through the same thing and just forget their worries, even if it's only for an hour or two.



"City of Liverpool are only in our infancy. But if we develop half as well as FC United have then I will be very happy indeed"

Actually our third kit this season is a testament to our refugee team and was designed by them to promote the club's continued support for them and our anti-racism and anti-fascism stance.

How has the Covid situation affected your club?

As soon as it became apparent that this pandemic would hit our community, football was placed on the backburner. We had been due to launch The Purple Pantry as a food union in a few weeks but that was brought forward so people could donate either food, money, time or all three into helping the most vulnerable in our community.

Care packages were made up and volunteers dropped them off to those who needed it most - those shielding, the elderly, people who had lost jobs or families struggling to make ends meet. At the height of the pandemic, about 50 care packages a week were distributed by our volunteers.

In terms of finances for the club, the chairman has described us as "carbon neutral". Essentially all our income and expenses are associated with a matchday, so no games meant no expenses but also no income, so it hasn't impacted our club in terms of finances as much as it has some other clubs in the North West.

Do you have any contact with other fan-owned clubs?

I think generally most fan-owned clubs gravitate towards each other. If one of us succeeds, we all succeed and it shows others that the fan ownership model is the way forward.

We have travelled to South Wales to face Merthyr Town in a high-profile pre-season fixture, we have good relationships with other local fan-owned clubs who we have regularly faced in league and cup games,

such as 1874 Northwich. It's always a great occasion and I think there is a mutual respect for how each club presents itself, plus you always want to see a fan-owned club have success. This high-profile fixture against FC United is probably our biggest against other fan-owned clubs.

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

I think anyone associated with non-league football and fan ownership can look to FC United almost as a template of what to do right. Starting as an Anti-Glazer movement for Manchester United fans and using that to build and sustain a team with a community ethos is incredibly impressive. I think you had three promotions in your first three seasons which is itself just phenomenal. But then using that success on the pitch to grow the club off the pitch was key to your success. Especially building your own stadium from scratch with no big developer attached whilst ensuring it can be accessible to the community. Its an inspiration to other fan-owned clubs of just what can be achieved. And the fact the club was only founded 15 years ago is a testament to just how effective fan ownership can be.

City of Liverpool are only in our infancy, having been playing since 2016. But if we develop half as well as FC United have then I will be very happy indeed.



Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



FCUM are playing their 167th friendly this afternoon but this is only the second against Merseyside opposition. In midweek, Neil Reynolds' side lost 4-1 at Marine.

Manchester and Liverpool have an unrivalled footballing rivalry and FC are maintaining that tradition at non-league level. The Reds have played 29 competitive fixtures against Merseyside clubs and have won an impressive 18 (62%), drawing seven (24%) and losing four (13%).

At home, FC United have won 11 (73%) of 15 games, drawing three (20%) and losing one (7%). The sole defeat was in November 2012 at Gigg Lane, when Nick Rogan scored the only goal of the game for Marine in the 83rd minute. This was one of two wins for the Mariners in 15 meetings against the Reds, losing 10 of them.

FCUM have scored five goals in a home game

four times in this series of games. The 5-0 win against Formby in April 2007 featured a hat-trick by Rory Patterson and also the sole cameo appearance by manager Karl Marginson (pictured left). In November 2008, visitors Cammell Laird led 5-2 in the 70th minute but were pegged back to 5-5 in a remarkable finish as Kyle Wilson, Chris Baguley and Nic Robinson netted.

In September 2012, Cammell Laird returned for an FA Cup tie and again conceded five, this time without reply. Lee Neville, Jerome Wright, Michael Norton (2) and Lee Atherton (own goal) were on the scoresheet at Gigg Lane. In February 2015 Tom Peers scored a brace in the opening half hour to give Marine a flying start at the Tameside Stadium before the home side hit back with goals from Birch, Payne, Wolfenden and our own scousers Lindfield and Byrne.

On Merseyside we have lost three times (20%) in 15 trips. In August 2008, FCUM went down 2-1 against Cammell Laird at Kirklands with Kyle Wilson scoring for the visitors. Three weeks later the Reds lost their only visit to Valerie Park 4-3 to Prescott Cables despite Wilson scoring twice. The last visit to the area was to the Arriva Stadium in November 2017 for an FA Trophy tie, won 1-0 by Marine with a Danny Mitchley penalty.

At youth level, City of Liverpool meet FC in the National League U19 Alliance Division, and in the last game played during 2019-20, in March 2020 the Purps won 2-1 at Broadhurst.

HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT ANSWERS

QUIZ: 1 Tunde scored 35 goals (in 41 appearances). 2 Craig Carney. 3 Our first win was against Morpeth Town, 4-2 (in our fifth game). 4 We won 7-0 at home to Buxton. 5 There's two. Only two teams beat us by a two-goal margin - Basford 3-1 at Broadhurst and South Shields 5-3 at Mariners Park in our last match before lockdown.

GUESS WHO? Dave Swarbrick.

NAME THE GROUND: Kingston Park (v Newcastle Blue Star), home of Newcastle Falcons.

CROSSWORD: Across: 4) FulwoodAmateurs, 6) TomGreaves, 8) AaronMorris, 10) Sicily, 11) LiamCoyne. Down: 1) PaddyWharton, 2) JoshBrooks, 3) CarlosRoca, 5) EnfieldTown, 6) Thackley, 7) LongridgeTown, 9) MichaelFowler.

FC United Women

MANAGER KAMRAN HUSSAIN TALKS IN THE BUILD-UP TO HIS TEAM'S FIRST COMPETITIVE MATCH OF THE SEASON



FCUMW have almost completed their pre-season campaign and tomorrow face their first competitive match in six months when they play host to West Kirby in the preliminary round of the Women's FA Cup.

Kamran Hussain's team were flying high at the top of the North West Women's Regional League Premier Division and well on course for a long-awaited and fully deserved promotion into the Women's National League North First Division when the Covid pandemic struck, denying the Reds a dream treble as the 2019-20 campaign was declared null and void and brought to a devastatingly abrupt end.

Now eager to make up for lost time, FCUMW have enjoyed a positive pre-season so far with a 3-1 win against Wakefield being followed by a 3-0 success against Leeds United, before a 1-1 draw against Sporting Khalsa and a 3-0 defeat to the higher-ranked Huddersfield Town last Sunday.

And so after such a long break from competitive action, the side will be keen to make a winning start in the FA Cup tomorrow against West Kirby (kick-off 2pm) in what they

hope will prove a season in which their efforts of the past year can finally be rewarded. Manager Hussain (pictured below) tells us about what's been going on since the end of last season, and expectations for the year ahead...



Whilst there are far more important things to worry about in the world than football at the moment, it still must have been difficult for you and the team seeing the season ended early and all of the hard work go unrewarded?

We know it's been a testing time for everyone associated with the club, from the volunteers to the fans. The heartache of the premature end to the season was a tough one to take on the chin. However, we've hit the reset button and are more motivated than before to succeed.

You'll surely be looking to repeat last season's form this time around. Is there added intent in the camp to now make up for lost time and finally gain that much-deserved promotion?

Can you tell us the aims again for the coming season.

We want to continue the momentum of being unbeaten last season. The ambitions, benchmark, mindset and culture in the women's team is extremely high.

We want to play against the best, when they're at their best and challenge ourselves. Hopefully by the end of the season there will be no doubt as to who put in the most effort and time to win.

Please tell us about any new signings, and also players who have departed during the summer.

There have been a few departures in the back line and midfield. However, the incoming signings have come in an abundance!

We've strengthened all over the pitch. Signings like Laura Hart from Burnley, Jade Parker from Stockport, Rebecca Cork from Southampton and a few more additions has meant the squad is extremely competitive this season. Every signing brings value and their own qualities to create a well balanced squad.

And how has the pre-season campaign fared? Are you happy with the performances, and what if anything do you feel the team and squad can still improve upon?

Our pre-season schedule was designed to play against the best possible opposition

in and around us who we would not directly meet.

The performances have been pleasing as principles of play and ideas we've worked on in training have come out in games. We've taken on some very strong teams in the leagues above and gave a very good account of ourselves.

We know we've not hit our peak yet and there's always small aspects of our game we can improve.

With pre-season now almost complete, and more experience with how matchdays have been affected since 'the restart', do you envisage or have any added obstacles in your way this season with regards the current crisis, and what effect it has on games, the team and preparations etc?

We felt there was more change to the environment of ensuring everything was clean and safer than ever before. Also, on matchdays the preparation of the venue beforehand has been the biggest obstacle to ensure the safety of everyone playing and involved is not at risk.

The girls have pulled together and given up their time and effort to help where needed. If anything, it's brought everyone much closer together.

A report of Sunday's match and some more words from FCUMW boss Kamran Hussain will appear in Tuesday's programme



meet the owners

ANDY HOPKINS



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

During the initial anti-Glazer protests. Russell Delaney was a good friend and was involved in FC's formation. I was curious and sceptical as to whether it would feel the same and I got my answer after five minutes at Leigh. It was better. This was our club. It felt right. We were the real United.

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

My love, my hopes, my dreams – they are carried by our red-shirted heroes!

What does the club do best?

Maintaining affordable football for all.

What could the club do better?

Our engagement with the locals. I am, by coincidence, a local Moston resident and have been for 35 years. We need to get the local youth involved in our club. They are the future.

Jeans or socks on first?

Being of a more robust build, I have to say socks.

What was your first memory of attending a football match?

Wolves at Old Trafford in 1977. George Berry was marking the post. All I could think of was how big he was. I grew up less than a mile from Old Trafford. I used to 'car mind' to get the money to pay in 70p, I think it was, back then. Happy memories.

Always said to people that I would support United if they were a non-league club as they are my team. And I do now.

Where do you hope FC will be in five years?

Solvent and continuing our fight for supporters' rights! I would love to see FC United make it into the Football League one day. We're a long way off achieving this, but who knows.

What song gets you on the dance floor?

I don't dance. The earthquake seismology team's monitors would go haywire.

Do you do any volunteer work for the club?

I don't but my business did sponsor the 127 Club last season and I did design and supply all the lighting for the new SMRE refurbishment at cost, thus saving the club a few quid.

Where do you stand/sit at Broadhurst Park?

Main Stand. Louder than the Jesters!

Funniest thing seen at the match?

It was actually travelling to our first ever game at Leigh. I got a lift off my mate Lance in his van.

We had just pulled off the East Lancs.

None of us knew where we were going so

we pulled up outside a boozier and asked a local where Leigh was. His reply was 'Dunno mate, not seen him all day'. We just drove off shaking our heads.

Best FC moment?

Has to be the Quorn game. We actually lost but, my, what an atmosphere. It still sends shivers down my spine!

Favourite player?

Pottsy.

Favourite past player?

Tom Greaves.

Favourite flag?

Pleasures Unknown.

Best and worst terrace songs over the years?

Best is our Waterfall cover. Worst for me is that Yankee Doodle song.

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

Adidas trainers. My wife thinks I am sad.

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

Sausages, chips and beans.



If you would like to appear in Meet The Owners, please email your answers to the club office

#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'.

Their names will be featured in this section over the coming games.

Thank you for your support!

Lee Duddridge
Paul Duggan
Charlie Ennis
Ben Evans
Martin Fahy
Bren Foley
Dan Ford
Jonathan Gaskell
RIP Ben Osmand 2020
(from Martin Hamer)
Paul Hinson
Matt Hyman
Patrick Keenan
Dave Lavery
Jamie Leake
Allen S Lee
Ben Leighton
Chris Leighton
Daniel Maguire
Jason Maloney
Bob Massey
Brian Morris

FAN-OWNED CLUBS

CAVA UNITED



PEPPE ADEMONTE tells us about the supporter-owned Italian 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 history of Cava United starts far back; more precisely, from the birth of Sogno Cavese in 2010. It was yet another troubled summer for SS Cavese Calcio fans, in the middle of a corporate crisis.

Following some meetings with the Italian representatives of Supporters Direct Europe, a group of fans decided to create a Supporters Trust, Sogno Cavese, based on the founding principles of transparency, democracy and sustainability, with the ultimate goal to enter the shared capital of Cavese Calcio. The first year of activity was dedicated to bringing enthusiasm back to the city through a series of initiatives with a social background and to spread the principles of participation from below. We were aware that the incoming company would have a short life.

After the bankruptcy and after a series of vicissitudes, for about two years the Association was exclusively dedicated to social activities in the community, using football as an aggregative and social tool. Then in 2014, with a statutory change, it was decided to found a new club, Cava United FC. The name of the new club was decided with a consultation among members of Sogno Cavese Supporters Trust and is just a tribute to FC United of Manchester.

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

We are talking about 'parallel universes' that only share the same sport. Being a member of a fan-owned club means to be a part of it, in managing, supporting, organising. The club is a part of your life and your own life is part of the club!

We are aware of the deep difference since some former players decided to become members of the club. It's a great satisfaction because it means to be capable to transmit our values and our passion!

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

At the end of the 'regular' season, we were promoted to 1^a Categoria (it's the seventh level of Italian football). Cava de' Tirreni is a town of 55,000 inhabitants and Cavese Calcio plays in Serie C (the third level of Italian football).

We are supported more or less by a hundred to 150 supporters for home games. It becomes about fifty for away games.

What activities do you organise apart from football?

Through the Supporters Trust Sogno Cavese, we have been carrying out many activities for the community since 2010, using football as an opportunity of social aggregation: among these, I like to remember the 'Alla viva il Parroco' tournament that involves children of the parish of Cava de' Tirreni.

We organise the 'Il calcio è della Gente!' Tournament which involves children of primary schools in the city; we cooperate with a Social Cooperative named 'La Fenice' in organizing a 'Scalciando insieme' (Kicking together) Tournament for boys and girls with mental disease, hosted by social cooperatives and mental health centres.

Moreover, we are always ready to support fundraising for people of the community in hard times.

How have you coped with the Covid crisis so far and how have fans contributed in keeping the club afloat?

First of all, for next season we will take advantage of a reduction of costs by Lega Nazionale Dilettanti. We are trying to extend the number of members and have started on a new campaign called 'Become the owner' with a contribution on a monthly basis through a paypal account and a gift for new members (the official ball of Cava United FC).

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

As founders of Supporters in Campo, we have contact with the vast majority of the Italian Supporters Trust. We share best practice and have a mutual collaboration. In some occasions we have received fans of others supporters trusts at Cava United FC games. Moreover, thanks to Supporters Direct Europe, we're in touch with some partners of the EU Project we attended last year.



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

From a sporting point of view, the goal for next season is to avoid relegation. As a club, we are for a 'step-by-step' policy: we've got the aim to have a long history. In the next three or four years, we would like to have the first team made up from players raised in our youth team.

What do you know about FC United?

We've studied your history and we are aware of the strength of your message that spread through Europe concerning fan ownership. It was an honour for us to be your partner in the Erasmus+ project 'Clubs and Supporters for better governance in football'.



TODAY'S SQUADS



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

PRE-SEASON
FRIENDLY

Saturday
5th September
2020



NEXT GAME AT
BROADHURST:
versus
Trafford
Tuesday 8th
September
(7.45pm)

OWEN WHEELER ●
KARL WILLS ●
JORDAN BARROW ●
ANTHONY BROWN ●
CRAIG CAIRNS ●
KARL CLAIR ●
LOUIS CORRIGAN ●
DANIEL DALTON ●
ETHAN DEVINE ●
TONY GRAY ●
JACK HAZELHURST ●
LIAM HYNES ●
IAN KEARNEY ●
GERARD KINSELLA ●
JAMIE McDONALD ●
KEVIN McKELLIN ●
JOHN McGRATH ●
ELLIOTT NEVITT ●
DOMINIC REID ●
STEPHEN RIGBY ●
THOMAS STEPHENS ●
JAMES YATES ●

Today's referee: Simon Kells Assistants: Michael Johnson and Nalbi Sadek