

FOUM REVIEW

2020-2021

The SHOCAL Shield
v TRAFFORD FC
Broadhurst Park



Tuesday 8th September
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OFFICIAL FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

“It’s been a long and hard road for all clubs across non-league over recent months. I honestly can’t describe how brilliant it is to be back here at Broadhurst Park again, and I’m very excited for the season ahead.”



Neil Reynolds

FC UNITED’S MANAGER TALKS IN THE BUILD-UP TO TONIGHT’S MATCH

Following the success of Saturday, which saw supporters return here for the first time since February, I’d like to extend a warm welcome once again to Broadhurst Park this evening.

We saw an entertaining match on Saturday against City of Liverpool FC. With the amount of chances for both sides, it’s amazing that the score ended up 1-1. We weren’t good enough in the first half, and they certainly had the better of it, looking particularly dangerous on the counter.

We took the opportunity to regroup at half-time and were quickly back on level terms, with a really good Michael Fowler header from Regan’s cross.

I was really pleased with the performance across the pitch in that second half, and nobody was shirking when it got a bit feisty at times out there.

I’m pleased to welcome Trafford FC here this evening. This match-up should have been last season’s Manchester Premier Cup final, and I’m sure they’ll have been as disappointed as we were not to have got the opportunity to play for the cup and finish off the season.

“Perhaps we can consider this a sort of unofficial cup final, as I believe the match sponsors are providing a shield to be presented to the winner of the game which is a nice touch’

Danny Caldecott has made the step up to take over

as manager, following the surprise departure of Tom Baker over the summer.

Your first appointment as a manager is always a tough gig, and couldn’t be much tougher given the current climate in non-league football, but DC has done a cracking job of keeping the bulk of his squad together and bringing in additional signings.

I obviously wish him and his team all the best for the coming season.

Whilst we’re still exploring options for a potential friendly this Saturday, as I write, today’s match marks the final game of pre-season for both sides.

Trafford head straight into FA Cup action against Wythenshawe Amateurs on Saturday afternoon.

They’ll obviously want to be going into that match on the back of a good result today, so we should be in for a good challenging game this evening.

For us, the season doesn’t begin in earnest until the following Saturday, when we welcome Nantwich Town here.

As I mentioned in my notes on Saturday, from a footballing perspective I’m quite happy with not having friendlies in the week before the opening league match.

The last thing you want is lads picking up knocks and having to miss that first game when they’re raring to go.

We’ll be focusing on quality training sessions over the next week and a half. I have a clear view of what I expect the squad to look like going into the season, and it’s now about bringing those lads

together and ensuring we’re ready to go straight out of the gate.

We’ve kept the core of last season’s team together and strengthened that with some signings and successful trialists. We can expect good competition for places in a number of positions across the pitch.

One complicating factor this year is the National League starting so late. Usually at this point, the players who haven’t made a squad there are looking for a club, but that’s obviously been delayed this season.

We’ll of course be keeping a watchful eye over the next month or so for anyone who we think would be a good fit to strengthen the side further.

We’ve played enough games now for myself, Brian and the coaching staff to know the areas we really

need to look at. Having a number of training sessions on the bounce really gives us the opportunity to focus in on those areas and getting the lads to retain the information that they need.

It’s been a long and hard road for all clubs across non-league over recent months. I honestly can’t describe how brilliant it is to be back here at Broadhurst Park again, and I’m very excited for the season ahead.

I have to say a big thank you to everyone involved in Saturday’s organisation, and in particular to Peter Shaw, who ensured everything ran like clockwork.

Thank you to everyone for attending this evening, and I look forward to seeing you again when we kick off the season a week on Saturday.

Reno



With this evening’s match being FC United’s final pre-season fixture before we embark on our Northern Premier League campaign at Broadhurst Park against Nantwich Town in two weeks, you can find reports from all of our friendlies on the official website

If you are reading this before tonight’s match but won’t be at Broadhurst Park, you can tune in to a live stream for our last pre-season game from 7.30pm via <https://tinyurl.com/fcum-live>

Broadhurst News

SEASON TICKETS

Just a reminder to fans that the sale of Season Tickets and Ten Match Ticket Books have been suspended.

With the imposed crowd limitations in place, and restrictions on the number of people who will be able to attend games in the near future, it has been a decision the club has been forced to make – despite our Broadhurst Park home being capable of holding more than the current capacity imposed, which has been based upon the league’s smallest ground as opposed to a preferred individual basis.

For example, a club in our division with a ground capable of holding just a couple of thousand fans at most, will have the same attendance cap as FCUM, where our ground’s capacity is over the 4,000 mark

As we have now sold 770 Season Tickets, along with 130 TMTBs – which exceeds the currently imposed capacity cap but takes into allowance the number of fans who buy STs but don’t attend all games – we have had to stop ST and TMTB sales for now.



It is not a situation that the club is happy with but have to accept, and hopefully we will be able to accommodate 1,400 paying spectators by October. By then, we should hopefully also be in a position to provide tickets for members and supporters without a Season Ticket or Ten Match Ticket Book.

In the meantime, please purchase a membership if you haven’t yet done so, as priority on any tickets available in future after ST and TMTB numbers are taken into consideration will be offered to members first.

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...

AWAY MATCH TRAVEL

Unofficial away match travel organiser Pete Wharton is hoping to continue running coaches to away games during this coming season but, unfortunately, will be unable to provide the service for all fixtures.

Explaining the situation before the big kick-off, Pete said: “We will try to run some coaches to away matches but with reduced capacity (30 passengers on a 60 seater), social distancing, wearing of masks and the fact we face reduced admission at some grounds (for example, just 90 tickets to FC for Scarborough), we will face difficulties.

“In the first instance; 1. Seats will only be confirmed on payment of a deposit for each seat booked. 2. Seats can only be booked when the ticket allocation is known. 3. Child prices will continue for

Under 16s, but may have to be closer to the adult seat price 4. We will run second and third coaches if the numbers stack up.

“I don’t think Scarborough is a viable option with reduced tickets, but will reassess when the details are known. Morpeth has been booked, details to follow in due course.

“Thanks for your support in these strange times.”



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 via the Club Shop page on our official site and are priced £39 for adults, £25 juniors.

REDS RUN RIOT IN CUP RETURN



FC United Women started their competitive season with an emphatic 13-0 victory against West Kirby in FA Cup extra preliminary round at Broadhurst Park on Sunday.

Kamran Hussain’s side will now resume their ‘pre-season’ fixtures and currently await a schedule for their forthcoming league campaign.

THE PROGRAMME

We continue to have concerned Reds asking questions about the future of FCUM Review in its original printed form, with many rumours being spread that we will be remaining online only throughout the entire campaign.

As also stated in a piece written for the Barrow programme, we’ll be aiming to reintroduce the printed programme as soon as possible, and hopefully in time for our first competitive game.

In the meantime, and for our friendly games, we took the decision to produce an online edition only, to at least provide some form of matchday reading as we start welcoming crowds back to the ground, which can be downloaded via the official website.

So please continue to support the programme, and hopefully we’ll be back in print again soon enough.



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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Thanks to: The FC subs, our matchday sellers, Peter Wharton, Pete Cranmer, Vinny and Viv
Photos: Mark Lee, Sam Coates, Matt Wilkinson, Andy Barker, Mike Dean, Alicia Day

half-time entertainment

by PHIL BUSBY

FC UNITED
CROSSWORD
PRINT
AT HOME
VERSION



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

CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 3) Scored a record number of goals in a season for FC with 45 goals in 2006/7 (5,4)
- 7) Nickname of our first league opponents this season, Nantwich Town (3,7)
- 10) Scored his second goal in three days with the opener at Clitheroe (5,6)
- 11) Tanned former player/assistant manager at FC, made 22 appearances for the Reds (4,5)
- 12) Ex FC United captain, joint manager with Mike Norton at 6 down (5,5)

Down

- 1) FC opened the new season with a first ever friendly against Eccleshill United at their quaintly named ground (8,4)
- 2) Irish former FC central defender now in his second season at Stalybridge Celtic (7,9)
- 4) Former FC United keeper, made his debut in the Play-off final against Bradford Park Avenue (3,7)
- 5) One-time FC Forward Tom Peers returned to this club after his spell at Broadhurst Park in 2018/19 (10)
- 6) Mike Norton is now player/manager of this North West Counties club (3,5)
- 8) Venue for the Bank Holiday pre-season game versus Clitheroe, below (10)
- 9) No relation to Tunde but we have another Owolabi in the FC squad! (5)



NAME THE GROUND



QUIZ

Some more questions on last season...

- 1 Which player/players made the most appearances for FC United last term, and how many games were played?
- 2 How many goalkeepers appeared between the sticks for the Reds in all competitive matches?
- 3 Can you remember the teams we played, and the scores, during our FA Trophy run?
- 4 And likewise for our FA Cup campaign of 2019-20?
- 5 Which team were FC United scheduled to meet in the final of last season's Manchester Premier Cup, and for a bonus point who were the last team to beat us in that competition?



THE RED THREAD

FOOTBALL CAN GET STUFFED

Easter Saturday in 2014 saw our last trip to Stamford's lovely town centre ground before they moved to a new stadium on the outskirts of town the following season.

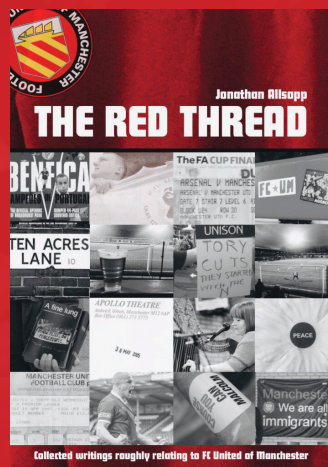
The sun shone, there was a beer festival in town and FC United maintained their promotion push with a late winning goal by Michael Norton. But here I am prattling on about bookshops and stuffed birds.

As something of a tree-hugging, part-time vegetarian it's perhaps no surprise that my knowledge of taxidermy is limited. To say the least. But fortunately I was able to rectify this in a second hand bookshop in Stamford a couple of weeks ago.

Nestled between copies of A Summer on the Nene and The Skaters of the Fens, a book entitled Artistic and Scientific Taxidermy and Modelling by Montagu Browne caught my eye.

It's a thick volume, published in 1896, something of a heyday for stuffed animals it appears. I ended up perusing an extensive, illustrated chapter on how to stuff birds.

"Undeniably the most popular section of taxidermy



is that vulgarly known as bird stuffing" suggests Montagu. Vulgar or not, there was plenty of detailed guidance on how to clean mud and blood stains from a dead bird. How to skin it and trim the skin. And then how to stuff it and mount it for display.

Whilst most of FC United of Manchester's away support seem to be able to drink like thirsty fish, my 40-something years have brought a more circumspect approach to matchday quaffing. In short, I've become a bit of a lightweight. One of the joys of the Northern Premier League is that you get to visit places like Stamford, Matlock, Kendal and Buxton and have a proper pre-match nose around without

arousing the attention of the local dibble. Bookshops, and second hand ones in particular, have become a popular matchday haunt for me.

Scrivener's in Buxton, for instance, is a higgledy piggedly multi-floored delight complete with sofas, cake and a kettle for brewing up. On a visit a couple of seasons ago, whilst most FC fans were giving it "this badge is my badge" in Market Square, a few hundred yards down the road I was flicking through a dusty four volume, 19th century History of the County of Derbyshire with a slice of carrot cake and a brew.

And there's an equally ace bookshop in Cromford, near Matlock, that does hearty homemade soups, the sort you can stand your spoon up in. Perfect for a wintry trip to Causeway Lane or the Reynolds' Stadium or whatever they're calling it this year.

If FC's Course You Can Malcolm has taught us anything it is that pre-match nourishment can be cultural and educational as well as culinary and alcoholic. "A slum sport watched by slum people"? Pffftt. "Bookshop Reds we are here....." Stamford, as befits The

Sunday Times' choice as best place to live in Britain in 2013, also possesses some fine bookshops. Eschewing the Easter weekend beer festival at The Green Man I opted for some pre-match bookworming and a quiet pint in the lovely Tobie Norris pub. Lovely that is except for a painting of Winston Churchill in the front room.

Stamford has its own, slightly unusual, literary history. Proclaimed as the "finest stone town in England" its beautiful medieval and Georgian architecture was used as a backdrop for much of the telly costume dramatisation of George Eliot's Middlemarch in the 90s and the film version of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice more recently.

I'm also sure I read somewhere that the United supporting journalist Jim White was mooching in a gift shop in Stamford on that tumultuous Easter Saturday in April 1993 when Steve Bruce scored two late goals for United against Sheffield Wednesday. Although quite why he should be there and not gooning in K Stand like the rest of us remains a mystery.

The views across town from Stamford's wonderfully

ramshackle ground are fabulous; a jumble of limestone buildings, trees and church spires. One of the locals informed me that they're moving to a new ground next season so this was one of their final games at the old ground. A shame.

With FC still in with a sniff of winning the league, this was the Lincolnshire club's largest crowd for many a year. And they witnessed a pulsating game which FC eventually won 3-2 with a typical poacher's goal (see what I've done there?) from Michael Norton that was described, in a wonderful snippet of commentary on FCUM Radio, as being like Berg-Norton-kamp.

It was that good. The ice cream van end was in raptures. As we left the ground and headed back into town for post-match refreshment a friendly steward wished us a safe

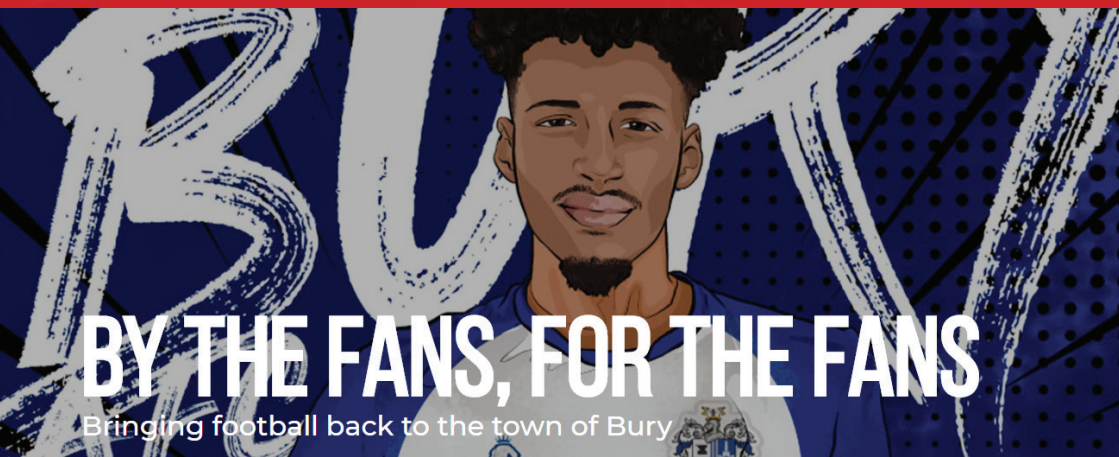
journey home and said that he hoped that we won the league.

We didn't of course. In fact we didn't even win promotion. Despite another late winner on Easter Monday and a comfortable win at the Canaries of Barwell on the last day of the season, FC United ultimately lost out on the title by a point to the Magpies of Chorley. And on a rousing, gut wrenching Tuesday night we lost in the one hundred and twenty first minute of the play-off semi-final to the Robins of Ashton United.

Perhaps this summer Karl Marginson and our red shirted heroes should pick up a copy of Artistic and Scientific Taxidermy and Modelling and discover how to stuff these birds instead of getting stuffed by them. Let Montagu Browne be our guide.



Extract from The Red Thread: Collected writings roughly relating to FC United of Manchester by Jonathan Allsopp which has already helped raise more than £6,000 from its initial print run. The book was published in July 2020 by Rubberybubbyboy Parchment. It is priced £10 with all proceeds to FC United. Email jonathan.allsopp@live.co.uk if you'd like a copy.



BY THE FANS, FOR THE FANS

Bringing football back to the town of Bury

It was only a year ago when supporters of two Lancastrian Football League clubs faced the ominous threat of seeing their sides disappear off the footballing map as liquidation loomed, and a combined 250 years of history would be brought to a sudden end.

It seemed the end was nigh for both Bolton Wanderers FC and Bury FC as years of financial mismanagement and ludicrous debts appeared to catch up with two of the game's oldest clubs.

Fortunately for Bolton, a last-minute rescue package saw the Trotters saved (for now) but, sadly, the same couldn't be said for our previous landlords at Gigg Lane whose fans had, only a few months earlier, been celebrating an unexpected promotion from League Two.

Now, just a decade and a half after Bury FC rented out their historic 12,500 all-seater home to 'a pub team from Manchester', the side representing a town famed for its black puddings will be playing their home games down the road at Northern Premier side Radcliffe FC, with 350 seats and a capacity of just a few thousand.

Just six years before FCUM's formation, Bury were looking forward to league derbies

against Manchester City having spent a number of seasons just one promotion away from the Premier League. Now they will be playing in the 10th and bottom tier - four divisions below their old 'pub team' tenants and facing 'derbies' against the likes of Chadderton, Bacup, 'Where's' Daisy Hill, And Prestwich Heys. Football, eh?

The warning signs were there, though - and had been for a long time - that things weren't right behind the scenes at Bury FC as the club often lurched from one financial crisis to another over numerous years and owners and whilst it is always shocking to see events like that which

brought an end to Bury FC's 125-year tenure in the Football League last year, it sadly wasn't so surprising.

However, from the ashes of the old club's demise comes the phoenix club, Bury AFC, who like FC United have become a supporter-owned side. For the first time in their supporting lives, Bury fans will have their own club's destiny in their own hands as they aim to rise from the foot of the footballing pyramid.

With the new club accepted into the North West Counties League for this coming campaign, like ourselves 15 years earlier,



a group of football supporters were faced with setting up a club from scratch (though they had a little longer to prepare than ourselves) and after agreeing a ground-share deal with another of FC United's old landlords, Bury AFC will be starting life playing their games at Stainton Park - and just a few miles from the vacant Gigg Lane.

The creation of a new club, though, has created an element of division amongst the Bury support, with a number of fans and the Forever Bury supporters' group still believing the old club can be rescued - despite the club having no new owner, having not played any games since the end of the 2018-19 campaign, and the recent news that Bury FC had been rejected for a place in the National League system.

In a pre-season interview with the Guardian newspaper, Bury AFC chairman Chris Murray said: "We never wanted to be a rebel club or to create a team when there is already a club functioning perfectly fine. But there is not. If the club was saved and bought by new owners we always said we would step down, but that is not the case. It has been 12 months without football so we created this club for people to fall back in love with football.

Murray also states that should a new owner be found for the old club in the future, then "We would put everything to a vote among our members to decide what happens if Bury are saved."

For now, though, the new club is dreaming of a steady rise through the non-league game with the aim of competing in the Football League.

"We want to be something that is good for the town and for the local economy and something that can grow," said the Bury AFC chairman. "If we are in the EFL in 10 or 12 years' time as Bury AFC then it is mission accomplished. But the priority is to get a team in position for our first season.

"Eventually we would hope to create an academy, fund ourselves by developing and

selling players and buy Gigg Lane. We know it will be a long journey but we know we have set up for the right reasons."

Following news that Bury FC had been snubbed by the National League, a statement was released by Forever Bury saying: "We would like to congratulate the newly formed club Bury AFC who will be playing at their new home in an initial groundshare with Radcliffe FC. Bury fans want to see Bury Football Club with its history walking back out on Gigg Lane sooner rather than later and we will continue to work to achieve this goal.

"Forever Bury have been working behind the scenes with recent meetings to discuss the plans for Bury FC and the way forward and achieve our aim of saving Bury Football Club, its 135 year history and having football played once again on Gigg Lane.

"We appreciate that some Bury FC fans are following and will be following Bury AFC and that we are in the firing line. But as we stated from the outset, we still have our main aims and objectives to achieve, which is getting back to Gigg Lane and preserving the club's 135-year rich history.

"United We Stand. Divided We Fall."

Bury AFC will, like ourselves, begin life in football's basement league. And whilst the names and places of most opponents will be alien to many followers of Bury FC - and a world away from what they have been accustomed to over the past few decades - there's no doubt that the newly-formed club





is now on a journey that many at FC United will envy, as we remember and reminisce about the start of what became a phenomenal adventure for our own phoenix club.

Meanwhile, off the pitch and despite problems posed by the current Covid crisis, the new club is proving a great success amongst many of Bury's long-disaffected support, with thousands of pounds being raised in the first few weeks of existence, more than 750 members signed up by the start of August and over a thousand replica shirts sold – one of which features the names of hundreds of fans who donated £50 a time to appear on the historic first kit; whilst a bus service will be provided from near Gigg Lane to Stainton Park on a matchday for fans wanting to maintain their long-held pre-match rituals of drinking near the old ground.

Finally – and with a link to the Reds – hundreds applied for the manager's position at the phoenix club who will play in the NWCFL First Division North, but the honour of becoming Bury AFC's first boss was eventually given to Andy Welsh.

The Mancunian appeared for FC United during the 2014-15 campaign after a playing career that saw the midfielder represent Stockport County, Sunderland and Blackpool amongst many others.

• Now aged 36, Welsh joins the club after hanging up his boots at Ossett Albion just a couple of years ago, before he went on to become the first manager of Ossett United, having previously played for Farsley Celtic after his short spell with FC United.

• He represented Scotland at Under 19 level and joined FC in September 2014, making his debut in a 4-1 FA Cup success against Prescott Cables at Stalybridge's Bower Fold. Welsh made just eight starts and two substitute appearances for the Reds, scoring a solitary goal in the 2-0 victory at 'home' to Whitby in early October (pictured celebrating above). A month later and out of the first team, he left a club which went on to attain Northern Premier League title success later in the season.

• So as Bury AFC embark on this new adventure, they'll be hoping to follow in the footsteps of other now-defunct former League sides and supporter-owned clubs - like Wimbledon, Chester, Maidstone and more - in working their way up that steep football pyramid as quickly as possible, and enjoying (and enduring) the many experiences along the way.

• We wish the new club well in its new journey and no doubt many at FC United will be keeping a keen eye on Bury AFC's progress over the coming months, and years.

Stats Entertainment

with FCUM Radio's PAUL HINSON



At the end of the 2019-2020 season, FCUM were due to play Trafford in the Manchester Premier Cup Final, but the pandemic left this competition unfinished and abandoned. It was not the first oddity for the Reds in cup competition.

The ineligible player scenario has affected three of our cup ties. When Nantwich Town thrashed the Reds 5-1 at the Weaver Stadium in a President's Cup quarter-final it was only marred by the introduction of Josh Hancock in the 77th minute, who was not properly registered.

The Dabbers were subsequently drummed out and their reinstated visitors went on to lift the trophy.

For Witton in February 2013, Michael Powell made a goalscoring debut against FCUM and indeed played the full 90 minutes in a 4-3 NPL Challenge Cup victory before a registration error was realised.

However, this time it was their opponents in the previous round – Curzon Ashton – who were reprieved but the Nash ultimately lost the final to North Ferriby United.

In October and November of 2018 FCUM eased past Glossop North End and Mossley to progress to the Semi-Finals of the Manchester Premier Cup.

Unfortunately Elliot Simoes was ruled to be ineligible and the Lilywhites reached the final before losing to Curzon Ashton.

This prevented the Reds from winning the trophy in three consecutive seasons, a feat achieved by Ashton United (1952-55 and 2000-03), Curzon Ashton (1971-74), Hyde United (1993-96) and Droylsden (2008-11).

There was the NWCL Challenge Cup tie at the Crown Ground, Accrington in November 2005, where Rory Patterson was sent off against Colne having already been substituted.

The two incidences of nine-man heroics, in which FCUM were four minutes away from beating Quorn in the FA Vase in December 2006 before bravely capitulating in extra time, and the memorable FA Cup tie against Stockport County in October 2017 where the Reds lost two men before half-time and dared to conjure up a winner in the 48th minute.

Trafford were FCUM's first ever opposition in the FA Cup in September 2007 and at the neutral venue of Moss Lane, Altrincham, contributed to a seven-goal thriller with seven different goal scorers.

The sides last met in the Manchester Premier Cup Final at Ewen Fields in April 2018.

In that game Mark Derbyshire opened the scoring for The North in the eighth minute but got himself sent off within 52 minutes.

Joel Senior scored his first and only goal for FC United but failed in the penalty shootout, which the Reds still managed to win.

HALF-TIME ENTERTAINMENT ANSWERS

GUESS WHO? Charlie Raglan.

NAME THE GROUND: Hilton Park, Leigh RMI.

QUIZ: 1 Regan Linney & Michael Potts both made 42 appearances. 2 Just the two, Paddy Wharton and Cameron Belford. 3 Radcliffe (2-0), Basford (3-1), Runcorn (3-0), Kettering Town (2-1), Barrow (0-7). 4 Atherton Collieries (2-2 & 3-1) and Warrington Town (1-2). 5 Trafford.

CROSSWORD: Across: 3) StuartRudd, 7) TheDabbers, 10) ReganLinney, 11) PhilPower, 12) DavidBirch. Down: 1) PlumptonPark, 2) StephenO'Halloran, 4) JonWorsnop, 5) Altrincham, 6) NewMills, 8) Shawbridge, 9) Cyril.

meet the owners

JOSEPH WINSKILL



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

I first heard of FC when a community coach came into my primary school, but I didn't start coming to games until the season before we moved to Broadhurst with FC moving down the road to where I live.

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

FC brings people together, whether it's on or away from the pitch.

What does the club do best?

Look at the answer for question two.

What could the club do better?

Last year I'd have said involving the youth team more in the first-team squad, but I've heard rumours the youth team will get more chances this season.

Jeans or socks on first?

Jeans any day.

What was your first memory of attending a football match?

I think it was FC United v Buxton in 2014. It was absolutely mad seeing a live match

for the first time and feeling the buzz of the crowds. I was absolutely hooked on FC from that match onwards.

Where do you hope FC United will be in five years?

In five years, I'd be happy if we're back in the National North, but more financially stable so we can get ready to challenge for another promotion.

What song gets you on the dance floor?

Whatever the band's playing during the gig that I'm at.

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

Yeah, I do bits and pieces as an FC United volunteer. I help out with the kits at training and away games. I'll come in to the stadium when I can to help get the stadium ready for matches, like when we had the post-Covid volunteer push so the stadium was ready for when fans can return, as well as working with the F&B (food and beverage) teams on home matchdays.

Where do you stand/sit at Broadhurst Park?

If I'm there as a fan, the SMRE or the bar.

Funniest thing seen at the match?

Probably locking the whole squad in the changing room at Ashton away when the door handle came off in my hand five minutes before kick-off

Best FC moment?

A couple of last-minute winners come to mind, especially Harrogate 4-3 coming back from 3-0 down.

Favourite player?

Can't really say with the current squad. They'd all give me mither whoever I say!

Favourite past player?

Jerome and Greavesy have to be up there. Both top blokes on and off the pitch.

Favourite flag?

Either the MKD flag on block three or the 'Right Bunch' one.

Best and worst terrace songs over the years?

Best: 'That's the way we like it', because it tends to mean we've just scored.
Worst: 'It's our Tunde, just a poor rehash of the Tunji Moses song.'

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

Nowt FC related, but I try and grab setlists from the gigs I go to.

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

God knows. He'd just use whatever I cook as an excuse to sack me!



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!

Ian Muirhead
Isaac Muirhead
Sam Mullock
Atle Oevestad
Darren O'Neill
Chris Procter
Paul Quayle
James Quinn
Tobias Renton
Travis Renton
Darren Shepherd
Linda Southern
Scott Taylor
John Warmisham
Jonathan Wennekers
Gaz Wharton
Mark Wheeler
Tim White
Jaydon Williams
Tim Williams
Tim Workman
Leon Auger

FAN-OWNED CLUBS

SF FAIRANT KRAKOW



SZCZEPAN JANUS tells us about the supporter-owned Polish 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?
Our history is very short. The club was founded in 2018. Together with a few mates we decided that it would be quite interesting to manage our own club. Since the very beginning we wanted it to be done in our own way, along with a fan-based approach, so every one of us has the same rights, privileges and responsibilities.

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

Being a member of such a small and brand new club, especially in a city like Krakow with a few big names in Polish football is quite rough. There is only a small group of us, so almost everyone has to dedicate his/her time to deal with club-related topics in order to get the things running. We have to learn how to deal with administration, FA, tax office, social media, players, ground owners etc.

A lot of time and engagement is required from everyone. However, with new people coming in, getting more attention locally as well as nationwide (a few times mentioned already by the Polish FA) and being on a learning curve, we all hope that the day when we would be able simply to appear at the stadium with a beer in a hand without any obligations will come sooner than later!

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

The 2020/2021 season will be our debut in A-Klasa (the seventh tier out of nine in Poland). Usually with good weather at home games we can expect an average attendance of 50-60 people. With the best games, up to 100. At away matches usually we have 20-30 supporters (families, friends and relatives mainly).

What activities do you organise apart from football?

At the moment we don't have enough 'work force' to focus on too many side activities. However, we try to organize - on a regular basis - meetings with football-related guests. Mainly these are ex-footballers or

journalists. It has a form of a moderated interview where everyone from the audience can ask questions or jump into the discussion. Of course it is always organised in collaboration with our friendly pubs.

How have you coped with the Covid crisis so far and how have fans contributed in keeping the club afloat?
It was pretty simple for us. We don't pay players. The players pay us monthly fees to cover training grounds, kits, balls, matches, referees etc. Without football and with a lockout, we had no costs we don't own a stadium. We could reduce the fees of our members (including players) and even help other clubs struggling during the Covid crisis.



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

Not really. In Poland it's not a very popular idea. We know about the existence of some of them. Sometimes we ask each other for advice but we don't have strong relationship.

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

The short-term is easy - to survive! With all the things happening around the club and

permanent lack of free time, it isn't as fun as we expected. Long term? We'll see.
At the moment we have on our account two promotions during two years of existence. However, none of them was a proper one. The first one we were 'promoted' less than a week after the FA accepted us in their structure... after that they liquidated the lowest league (ninth tier) in Krakow and promoted us automatically.

This spring we were at the top of the league with half of the games still to be played when Covid arrived in Poland. The FA finished the league and promoted us! So we will see how long we can use these tactics. We will see what we can achieve with players willing to play for us for free. Once we know that, we will have to make decisions.

At the moment we just want to have some fun and meet friends. If we are sure we won't lose that, we can start aiming higher.

What do you know about FC United?

Quite a lot. I used to live in Chorlton in Manchester, for a few years. During that time I discovered FCUM and started to visit Broadhurst Park. FC United was a huge inspiration during the process of figuring out how we would like to organize SF Fairant Krakow.



Welcome to our visitors

TRAFFORD FC

Tonight we welcome to Broadhurst Park for our final pre-season game a team that we should have played in the final of last season's Manchester Premier Cup.

The Reds have met Trafford FC on a number of occasions since our formation 15 years ago, facing each other for the first time in September 2006 with FCUM winning 1-0 at Moss Lane before a return fixture in the North West Counties Premier Division ended in a thrilling 4-4 draw at Gigg Lane.

Pre-season 2007 then saw Trafford win 2-1 at Shawe View and the team met again a couple of months later in FC's first FA Cup game, with the Reds running out 5-2 winners in another game played at Alty's ground.

We then only met in friendlies at Trafford's home over the next few years, starting with a 2-1 victory for FC in 2009, before Trafford reversed the scoreline in 2011 and enjoyed a 2-0 victory the following year.

Our visitors were then promoted into the Northern Premier League's Premier Division for the 2013-14 campaign, with FCUM celebrating an early-season 3-2



success at Shawe View before a 1-1 draw followed in January 2014 at. The 2014-15 season then produced

another August meeting at Trafford, which ended in a 1-1 stalemate, with the Reds enjoying a 3-0 victory at the Tameside Stadium on New Year's Day and on our way to Northern Premier title success.

That was the last time we met in the league, yet our last match against tonight's opponents arrived in the previously-mentioned Manchester Premier Cup in April 2018, which saw the final tie finish 2-2 before FCUM prevailed on penalties in front of a 1,003 crowd at Ewen Fields.

Trafford currently play in the Northern Premier North West Division and at the time of the previous season being declared null and void, they were sitting just above mid-table in ninth position.

Included in their ranks are two former FC players, with Michael Jones being joined by another ex-Red, Astley Mulholland.

Midfielder Jones – who is now 21 – made his debut for the Reds as a sub during a 4-1 away to Nuneaton win in the National North in April 2017 and went on to make 28 appearances before leaving the club halfway through the 2018-19 campaign.

Meanwhile, Mulholland, now aged 32, made his debut in October 2011 as a substitute in a 3-1 victory at Frickley Athletic during our Northern Premier days.

The attacking midfielder went on to make almost a century of appearances for the club, scoring 11 goals over his 95 games before leaving the club early into the 2014-15 title-winning season.

He has since played for Glossop, Chorley, Colwyn Bay, Hyde, Barrow, Mossley and Radcliffe, joining Trafford just recently.

FC UNITED OF MANCHESTER

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES 2020-21



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)



A full list of fixtures, including scheduled FA Cup and Trophy dates, can be found on the official site

TONIGHT'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

Tuesday
8th September
2020



NEXT GAME AT
BROADHURST:

versus
Nantwich Town
Saturday
19th September
(3pm)

● MATT COOPER

● JONATHAN McILWAINE

● TERRY SMITH

● DIETER DOWNEY

● JAKE KENNY

● KEIL O'BRIEN

● JACK SLOAN

● ROSS DAVIDSON

● JACK DORNEY

● MICHAEL JONES

● MATTHEW MORGAN

● CHRIS PALMER

● OLI ROBERTS

● WILL SHAWCROSS

● LAURENCE TAYLOR

● SAM GRIMSHAW

● MAX HAZELDINE

● ASTLEY MULHOLLAND

Tonight's referee: Tom Swift

Assistants: Joe Cunningham and Justin Walton

With no Manchester Premier Cup final played between FC United and Trafford at the end of last season, tonight's match has been designated as 'The Unofficial Final', with both teams playing for the honour of winning the SHOCAL Shield this evening



FCUM RADIO