

# CAMBRIDGEUNITED

The Official Magazine 2009/10 £3.00

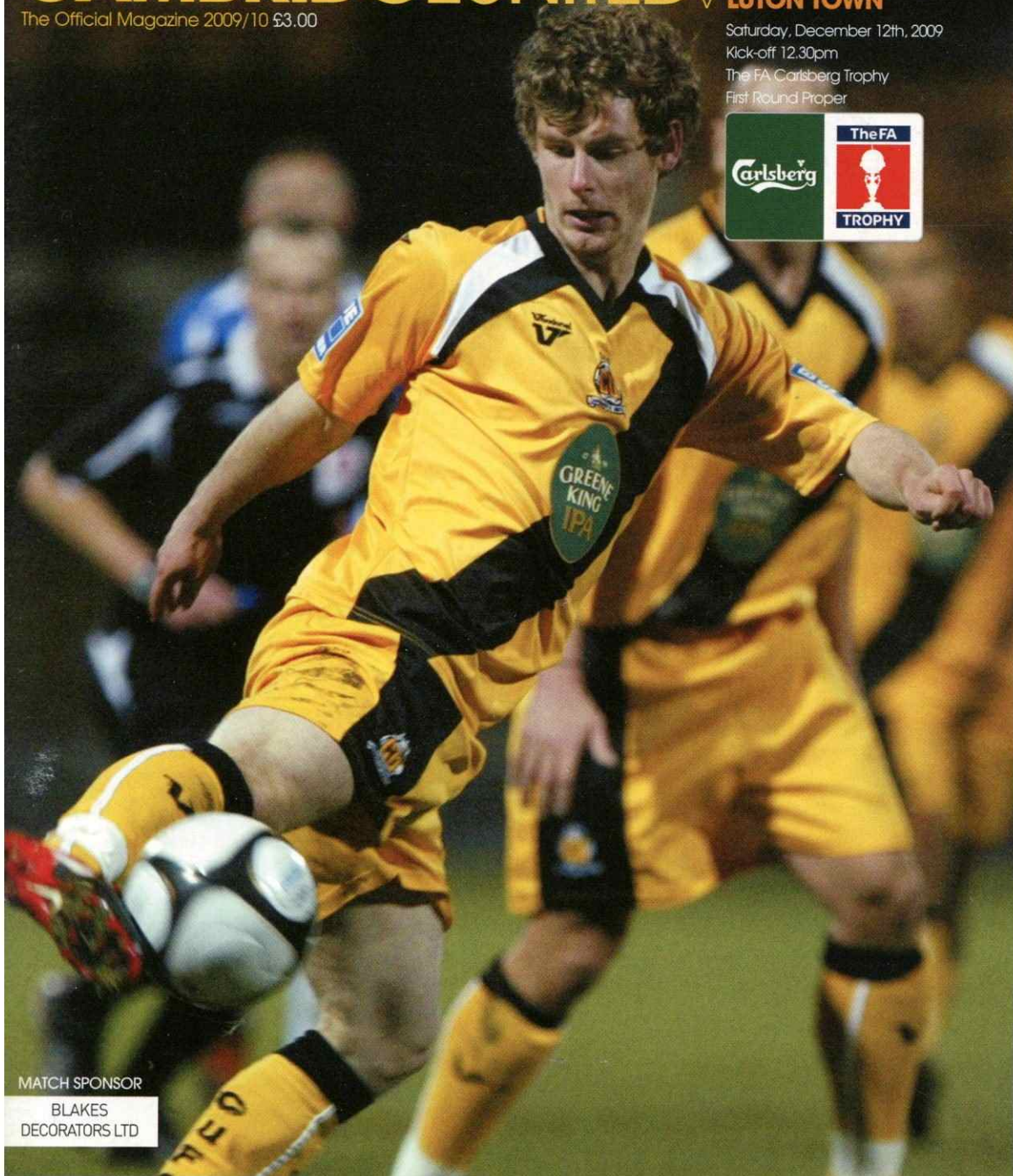
v LUTON TOWN

Saturday, December 12th, 2009

Kick-off 12.30pm

The FA Carlsberg Trophy

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# CHRISTMAS IS COMING

AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS OF ENJOYING IT WITH CAMBRIDGE UNITED!

## Eat, Drink and Be Merry

### The Full Monty

Join us at the Oxford United home match on Friday 18th December (7.45pm ko) for our full Christmas menu with all the trimmings. Watch top class Blue Square Premier football, dine in our Harris Suite pre match with entertainment before and after the game.

- \* Full three course Christmas dinner menu
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This is a great way for companies to have their Christmas staff party with a difference. Just contact our commercial staff to talk through the options.

### Bring Auntie Fanny to The Football

Avoid a second day of cooking and washing up by bringing the family to the football on Boxing Day.

With a great Blue Square Premier clash with Stevenage Borough (3pm ko) on offer and our hot and cold boxing day buffet selection to tempt those overworked taste buds what better way to continue the festivities.

- \* Hot and cold buffet selection

- \* Pre match entertainment
- \* £37.50inc. vat per head

Come and join us this festive period with a dining package in the newly refurbished Harris Suite. Contact the Commercial team on 01223 729207 or by email [commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk)

## Christmas Shopping Opportunities with The U's

There are a variety of Christmas gift opportunities at Cambridge United this year, here are just a few:

- \* Club merchandise in the club shop or online <http://www.theusonline.co.uk/>
- \* CUFC gift voucher to be exchanged for tickets and merchandise
- \* Mascot packages, a great Christmas gift for any child (the club can arrange a special Christmas card for Christmas morning!)
- \* Half Season tickets, a great chance for a friend or relative to make sure they don't miss the action at the R Costings Abbey Stadium
- \* Player sponsorships, from just £10 for bootlaces up to £300 for a players home shirt there are loads of opportunities for giving a loved one a great Christmas treat!
- \* Harris Suite dining packages for a game of your choice, these start from just £25 per head

# TEAM SHEET

## Today's Officials

Referee: James Adcock  
Assistants: Christopher Marsden & Andrew Barney  
4th Official: Andrew Tyne



## CAMBRIDGE UNITED

- 1  DANNY POTTER
- 2  DAN GLEESON
- 3  ANTHONY TONKIN
- 4  JOSH COULSON
- 5  BRIAN SAAH
- 6  WAYNE HATSWELL
- 7  MARK BEESLEY
- 8  ANDY PARKINSON
- 9  CHRIS HOLROYD
- 10  DANNY CROW
- 11  ROBBIE WILLMOTT
- 12  RORY McAULEY
- 13
- 14  JAI REASON
- 15  PAUL CARDEN
- 16  BEN FARRELL
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20  SAM IVES
- 21  DARRYL COAKLEY
- 22  ADAM MARRIOTT
- 23  JORDAN PATRICK
- 24  LUKE BERRY
- 25  JON CHALLINOR
- 26  COURTNEY PITT
- 27  LEE PHILLIPS
- 28  BLAINE HUDSON
- 29
- 30
- 31  LAURIE WALKER
- 32
- 33
- 34



## LUTON TOWN

- 1  MARK TYLER
- 2  ED ASAFU-ADJAYE
- 3  LEWIS EMANUEL
- 4  KEITH KEANE
- 5  ALAN WHITE
- 6  GEORGE PILKINGTON
- 7  ADAM NEWTON
- 8  KEVIN NICHOLLS
- 9  LIAM HATCH
- 10  TOM CRADDOCK
- 11
- 12  SHANE BLACKETT
- 13  SHANE GORE
- 14  ASA HALL
- 15  JAKE HOWELLS
- 16  ROSSI JARVIS
- 17
- 18  CLAUDE GNAKPA
- 19
- 20  KEVIN GALLEN
- 21  CALLUM REYNOLDS
- 22
- 23  FRED MURRAY
- 24
- 25
- 26  KEVIN PILKINGTON
- 27  MARK NWOKEJI
- 28  ASHLEY CAIN
- 29  MATTHEW BARNES-HOMER
- 30  ADAM WATKINS
- 31  JORDAN PATRICK
- 32  JACK WOOD
- 33  SAM BARKER
- 34  TAYLOR NATHANIEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P	S
1 OXFORD UNITED	23	10	1	0	28	5	7	3	2	17	12	28	55	
2 STEVENAGE BOROUGH	24	8	4	0	26	8	6	4	2	14	9	23	50	
3 YORK CITY	24	9	4	0	23	10	4	3	4	11	12	12	46	
4 MANSFIELD TOWN	23	6	4	1	21	8	6	1	5	16	17	12	41	
5 KETTERING TOWN	23	4	4	4	17	12	8	1	2	14	8	11	41	
6 AFC WIMBLEDON	23	4	3	4	16	7	7	3	2	23	15	17	39	
7 LUTON TOWN	22	5	3	3	15	10	5	4	2	12	11	6	37	
8 RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	23	6	1	4	18	16	4	5	3	17	10	9	36	
9 KIDDERMINSTER HS	24	7	1	4	17	10	3	4	5	13	15	5	35	
10 CAMBRIDGE UNITED	23	6	2	4	24	11	2	7	2	15	16	12	33	
11 ALTRINCHAM	23	2	5	4	10	12	6	3	3	15	9	4	32	
12 HISTON	23	4	5	2	15	10	4	2	6	14	18	1	31	
13 CRAWLEY TOWN	24	7	1	4	18	14	2	3	7	6	18	-8	31	
14 TAMWORTH	24	5	2	5	16	17	2	6	4	11	13	-3	29	
15 WREXHAM	22	5	3	4	14	10	2	3	5	7	11	0	27	
16 BARROW	23	3	7	2	14	17	3	2	6	10	16	-9	27	
17 HAYES & YEADING UTD.	23	2	5	4	15	16	4	3	5	11	15	-5	26	
18 SALISBURY CITY (-10)	24	4	3	5	11	11	6	0	6	15	21	-6	23	
19 GATESHEAD	24	4	3	5	13	13	2	1	9	14	26	-12	21	
20 EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	23	3	5	4	14	14	1	4	6	6	19	-13	21	
21 GRAYS ATHLETIC	24	3	3	6	12	20	0	5	7	11	25	-22	17	
22 FOREST GREEN ROVERS	23	2	4	6	8	15	1	3	7	10	27	-24	16	
23 EBBSFLEET UNITED	24	2	4	6	9	15	1	2	9	5	26	-27	15	
24 CHESTER CITY (-25)	24	3	1	7	12	16	2	6	5	10	17	-11	-3	

## REPLAY DETAILS

Should the scores finish level this afternoon, the replay would take place at Kenilworth Road on Tuesday, December 15th, kick-off 7.45pm.

## COMING SOON

Cambridge Utd. v Oxford Utd. Friday, December 18th 7.45pm Blue Square Premier

Cambridge Utd. v Stevenage Saturday, December 26th 3pm Blue Square Premier

CRC v Histon Reserves Monday, December 28th 7.45pm Ridgeons League Premier Div.



For information on any of these gift ideas contact the Commercial team on 01223 729207 or by email [commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk)

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# Paul Barry

THE CHAIRMAN



Wembley would see us earning a total of £92,000 in prize money, which would be a very welcome boost to our finances.

Over and above that, as we've seen in the last two seasons for the Play-Off matches, to play at Wembley Stadium increases the profile of the Club in our community immeasurably.

Speaking of increasing our profile in the local area, the Club Shop in the Grafton Centre has been open for two weeks now and a huge thanks must go to Clive Jones for all of the work he's been putting in.

It's very much a case of testing the long term viability of this project over the next few months with us all hoping things stack up financially and enable us to make a long term commitment. With Primark directly opposite it's certainly a prime location for us and the foot-fall past the shop has been incredible. Match tickets, season tickets, corporate hospitality and Mascot Packages can now be booked at the outlet too.

Finally, any supporters wishing to book in to eat before either the Oxford or Stevenage games are still able to do so at just £37.50 per head, including pre match entertainment, meal and match ticket. Contact the commercial team on [commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk) or 01223 729207 for more details or to make a booking.

Enjoy the match.

Paul

Good afternoon and welcome to the R Costings Abbey Stadium for this afternoons FA Trophy match with Luton Town. A warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters from Luton who have made the short trip today.

We've already seen two terrific games of football between the sides in the league

this season and I'm sure this afternoon will be another exciting encounter as both teams look to book their place in the next round of the competition.

With our exit from the FA Cup against York a fortnight ago, the FA Trophy is now our last remaining cup-competition and provides a good opportunity to raise some income for the Club. Winning the final at



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# Martin Ling

## THE GAFFER



Welcome back to the Abbey for today's game and, for the second time this season, welcome to the players, officials and fans from Luton Town.

The last two matches have brought us four points, and although it wasn't a particularly pleasing performance against Chester we got a very welcome three points. Then it was a hard-fought draw at Eastbourne on Saturday and we should really have got three points from that one too.

It's frustrating me that we always seem to be chasing games at the moment. We got our noses in front against Chester but not until the last minute of the game so it would be nice to get in front for a change and have teams chasing us.

The upside is that we are showing character to keep coming back from behind, as we did at Luton last month, but I'd rather we were taking the lead and trying to control the game from there.

With suspensions and injuries and illness we've included quite a few of the younger lads in recent games and it's been pleasing to see them stepping up and

doing well. Against Chester the performance was disappointing but the pleasing thing was the clean sheet when the back four was so young.

Brian Saah was the oldest at 22, Josh was playing his first game since August and Rory and Darryl are only 19 and 20 so it was a young and inexperienced back line. If you'd offered me a clean sheet beforehand I'd have snapped your hand off because they hadn't played together before as a back four, and they did well to earn our first clean sheet for a little while.

Welcome to Richard Money and his staff. Obviously we've already met twice in the league in two enthralling matches and Richard has taken charge there quite recently, and it's hard to know what to expect from their form at present.

Last weekend they couldn't beat a Chester team that was down to ten men for the second half, but on Tuesday they put on a super show against Rotherham in the FA Cup and won 3-0.

We know they have some quality players there, but we also know they could have

an Achilles heel because we got two late goals there last month and at Chester they couldn't get what they wanted. So we go into today's game knowing all about them but they'll know all about us too.

The FA Trophy is a good competition and we're looking forward to today's game. When I was at Leyton Orient I would play a weaker side in the early rounds of the Football League Trophy to give players a game, but I certainly won't be doing that with the FA Trophy. I feel this is a big opportunity to have a good cup run and win a trophy, and a Wembley final and the income from that is a big incentive.

It's the FA Cup of non-league, and although Wembley has been a bitter place for Cambridge United supporters in the last two years I don't think many people would turn down the chance of a cup final there.

This is the beginning of a big period in our season. We have Oxford here next Friday in the first of four games in thirteen days, and it will be a massive thirteen days for us. After Oxford we play Stevenage, Mansfield and then Stevenage again, and they're all top four teams.

We're at the halfway stage now and those games represent twelve points, so although there will still be a lot of games to go afterwards I think those games will have a big bearing on where we'll be at the end of the season.

With today's game being close to Christmas and an extra one for season ticket holders to pay for, we know that some fans will struggle to get to this one. But the Cambridge United support has always been excellent and I hope you'll get behind us today like you always do and help to make up for those fans who might not be able to be here.

Enjoy the game.

**Martin Ling**

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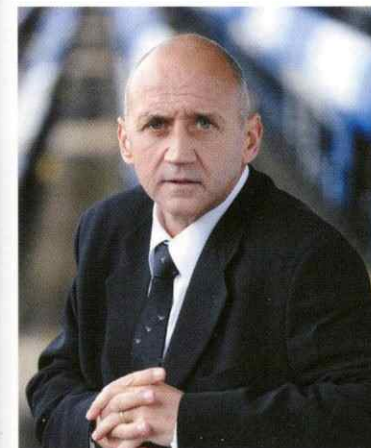
### TODAY'S OPPOSITION...

# LUTON TOWN



#### MANAGER

Lowestoft-born Richard MONEY (below) became the Hatters' 24th post-war permanent manager to succeed Mick Harford. Dubbed "Dicky Dosh" by Walsall fans after he guided the Saddlers to the League Two title in 2006/07, Richard played 49 times during his season-long stay at Kenilworth Road in 1982/83. He scored once - in a 2-2 draw at Rotherham - and made his final appearance in a Luton shirt at Old Trafford as the Town went down 3-0 to Manchester United just days before the famous victory at Maine Road which kept the Town in the top-flight.



Richard cut his managerial teeth at Scunthorpe United - who he also served as a player, before going continuing his education overseas with two clubs in Sweden. After a brief stint in Australia it was to the Bescot where he enjoyed his most successful spell before joining Newcastle United as academy director prior to returning to Bedfordshire.

#### GOALKEEPERS

Experienced goalkeeper Mark TYLER signed a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in June 2009 following his release from Peterborough United. Mark made 483 appearances in 15 years at London Road and was rewarded for his loyalty with a testimonial against Liverpool in 2007. After falling down the pecking order at Posh he found first team opportunities hard to come by and in 2008/09 he was loaned out to League Two Bury. A former England Youth international, Tyler was handed the number one shirt by the Hatters boss who admitted he'd failed in an attempt to sign the stopper the previous summer.

Former Wimbledon stopper Shane GORE arrived at Kenilworth Road on a short-term deal on the eve of the 2009/10 season. He came through the ranks at Selhurst Park but could only make one substitute appearance before leaving for Peterborough in 2003. Shane has also had spells with Barnet and Stevenage and featured for Maidenhead United in 2008/10 prior to joining the Hatters.

Vastly experienced stopper Kevin PILKINGTON has signed on a one month loan deal from League Two side Notts County.

#### DEFENDERS

A defender capable of playing centre back or full back, Claude GNAKPA joined on a free transfer in August 2008. Having plied his trade across Europe with Montpellier HSC, Racing de Santander, Deportivo Alaves and FC Vaduz of Liechtenstein, Claude moved to Swindon Town for a brief spell. He was then off again in July 2007 to Peterborough United and was a regular in the League Two promotion winning side. A favourite with the Kenilworth Road crowd the Frenchman scored the Hatters' winning goal in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy final against Scunthorpe United in April 2009.

Having made his debut as a 16-year-old in November 2003, Keith KEANE went on to enjoy an extended run in the side from February onwards whilst Kevin Foley was out injured. Such was the contribution he made that the return of Foley didn't signal the end of his involvement at first-team level and he finished the season with 14 appearances under his belt, all this whilst still in the first year of his scholarship. Another of the youth team who regularly appears for the Republic of Ireland at schoolboy level, he joined the Hatters at the age of nine having been scouted in local football, and has made a rapid progression through the club's centre of

excellence and youth teams. Over the course of his career at Kenilworth Road Keane has proved to be one of the, if not the most, versatile players to pull on a Luton shirt. Capable of playing right the way across the back four or in midfield the only positions he's not featured for the Town [yet] are in goal and up-front.



Highly experienced defender George PILKINGTON (above) joined the club on a free transfer in August 2008. Having began his career as an Everton trainee, Pilkington joined Port Vale in June 2003, after a loan spell at Exeter City. Having started 223 league games for the Valiants, the highly regarded defender was named player of the year twice and club captain.

Lewis EMANUEL arrived at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2006 after deciding to leave his home town club Bradford City, the place where the defender started his career. Lewis is a pacy full-back but can also play on the left side of midfield, a position where he started on his league debut for the club. Lewis made over 150 appearances for Bradford in six-years at the club, scoring four goals. In his first season at Kenilworth Road he made 40 appearances, scoring twice. Out of contract at the end of the 2008/09 campaign, Lewis signed a new contract in July 2009.

Capable of playing in any position across defence, Ed ASAFU-ADJAYE has made significant progress through the Club's youth set-up. Sent on loan to non-league side Walton & Hersham, he made the breakthrough into the first team under former boss Mike Newell, when the Club was stretched to the limits through injury and suspension. Although the youngster was an unused sub for three matches, Youth Coach Marvin Johnson gave Ed a glowing reference to incoming boss Kevin Blackwell, who gave him a one-year contract. However with first team opportunities still blocked, Ed went on loan to Salisbury City where he earned rave reviews and when Mick Harford arrived as manager at Kenilworth Road one of the first things he did when he was in charge was to

recall the young defender.

Young left back Jake HOWELLS came through the ranks at Kenilworth Road and made his first team debut as a second half substitute in May 2008. He made his full debut in the Hatters colours away at Bradford City in October 2008. After making 36 appearances for the Hatters in the 2008/09 he was rewarded for his efforts with a professional contract in May.

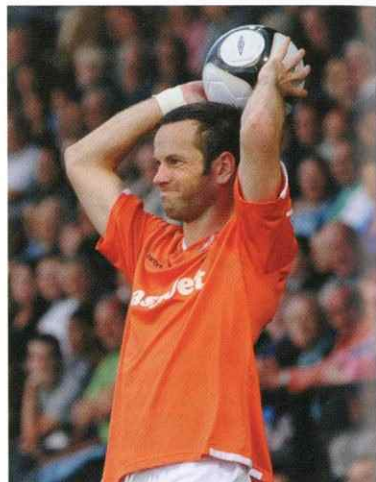
Vastly experienced centre half Alan WHITE resigned for the Hatters nine years after leaving Kenilworth Road. Darlington-born Alan started his career with Middlesbrough making his debut for Boro in a 3-3 draw with Liverpool in 1996. However, with first team opportunities limited at the Riverside, Alan jumped at the chance to sign for the Hatters in September 1997 for £40,000. After 98 appearances in Luton colours, Alan left Kenilworth Road in 2000, joining Colchester United on a free transfer. Four years at Layer Road came and went before he spent one season-spells at Leyton Orient, Notts County and Boston United. He signed for home-town team Darlington at the start of the 2007/08 season and went onto make 85 appearances for the Quakers before joining the Hatters for the second time in the summer of 2009.

Luton-born Shane BLACKETT (below) penned a two-year contract at Kenilworth Road in the summer of 2009 after joining the club from Peterborough United. Equally adept at centre-back or at left-back, Shane began his career with Dunstable Town before a switch to Arlesey Town in 2003. His form with the United Counties side alerted the attentions of Dagenham & Redbridge who signed the 6ft 3in defender in May 2004. He made 83 appearances during his time at Victoria Road and helped the Daggers win the Conference title and earn promotion to the Football League in 2006/07. His reputation as a pacy defender alerted the attention of Peterborough who snapped him with Dagenham team-mate Craig Mackail-Smith in January 2007 going onto make 38 appearances during his time with the London Road outfit.



Young Luton-born defender Callum REYNOLDS signed a six-month loan deal from Premier League side Portsmouth in July 2009. Reynolds began his career with Rushden & Diamonds having been spotted playing for the Crawley Green club in Luton. Despite not making a senior appearance at Nene Park, his promise playing for the Diamonds' youth team alerted the attention of visiting Portsmouth scouts and he subsequently signed for Pompey in the summer of 2007. Also capable of playing in midfield, Reynolds also spent time on-loan at Basingstoke Town making eight appearances for Stoke during 2008/09.

Left-footed versatile defender Freddie MURRAY (below) joined the Hatters on a six-month loan deal from Blue Square Premier side Grays Athletic in August 2009. Murray only signed for the Essex club in August before making his debut for the Town in the 4-1 victory over Mansfield Town just hours after putting pen to paper. Previously with Northampton Town, Stevenage Borough and Cambridge United Freddie began his career as a trainee with Blackburn Rovers.



#### MIDFIELDERS

Ascot-born Adam NEWTON signed in the summer following his release from Brentford. Predominately used as a right winger, the pacy wide man is equally as comfortable at right-back. Adam started his career at West Ham United, coming through the Hammers' respected academy but could only make three substitute appearances during his time at Upton Park before signing for Peterborough United in May 2002. The former England Under 21 international went onto make a name for himself with the Posh making 249 appearances in six years at London Road going onto win promotion at the end of the 2007/08 campaign. After leaving Peterborough at the end of the 2007/08 season, Adam was snapped by Andy Scott and Brentford where he helped the Bees to the League Two title. A St Kitts and Nevis international, he has spent time on-loan at Portsmouth, Notts County and Leyton Orient.

An adaptable player who can play on the left or right hand side of defence or midfield,

Rossi JARVIS came through the Norwich City youth system, becoming the youngest player to appear for the reserve team at the tender age of 14. He went on to spend loan periods at Torquay United and Rotherham United and after finding first team opportunities hard to come by Jarvis joined Luton Town in August 2008 on a free transfer.

A versatile player capable of playing in midfield or defence, Asa HALL began his football career in Wolverhampton Wanderers youth system, before signing his first professional contract with Birmingham City in 2004. While at the Blues he was a regular in the reserve team and was named young player of the year in the 2004/05 season. He also received caps for England at Under-19 and Under-20 levels and went on to have loan spells with Boston United, Ashford Town and Shrewsbury Town.

Hard-working midfielder Kevin NICHOLLS enjoyed six successful seasons at Kenilworth Road between 2001 and 2006, captaining the side to the League One title in the 2004-2005 season. Nicholls began his career at Charlton Athletic, before moving to Wigan Athletic in 1999, where he made 28 appearances in two years. He moved to Luton in 2001, and in the next six seasons went on to appear 175 times, scoring 30 goals. Following Luton's successful first-season in The Championship and the spirited FA Cup performances, Nicholls was a player very much in demand. He moved to Leeds United for £700,000 in July 2006 and was made club captain by then boss Dennis Wise. However, his very public fall-out with Wise saw him fall down the pecking order at Elland Road, and the following summer he moved to Preston North End for a fee of £750,000. His time at Preston began encouragingly, however a change in the management team saw his first-team opportunities limited. Kevin was delighted to re-sign for Luton, signing a three-year deal in August 2008 and being named as club captain.

Lightening quick winger Ashley CAIN signed on a month's loan from Championship side Coventry City at the end of November. A product of the Sky Blues' academy, he made his debut for City in the Championship at the tail end of the 2008/09 campaign when coming off the substitutes' bench against Charlton Athletic at the Ricoh Arena. Since then, the wide-man has gone on to make a further seven appearances for Chris Coleman's side and made his full debut against Hartlepool United in the Carling Cup in August.

#### FORWARDS

Originally a defender, Tom CRADDOCK developed into a promising forward who has done well at youth and Reserve team levels with Middlesbrough. He was the eighth member of Boro's 2004 FA Youth Cup-winning side to progress to first team level, following James Morrison, Tony McMahon, Andrew Taylor, David Wheeler, Matthew Bates, Adam Johnson and Jason Kennedy. He joined the Hatters on-loan from the Riverside in October 2008 and scored twice on his debut in a 2-2 draw with Grimsby Town. Two further goals followed in the games against Bury and

Chesterfield and once his loan expired Mick Harford moved quickly to snap up the striker on a permanent basis. A £80,000 bid was accepted by Middlesbrough and Tom signed a two-and-a-half year contract in January 2009. Craddock (below) has previously spent spells on loan with Wrexham and Hartlepool United.



Promising young forward Jordan PATRICK became the youngest ever player to feature for the Hatters when he made his first team bow when appearing as a substitute at Grimsby Town in October 2008 aged 16 years and seven days. With pace to burn the striker is tipped to have a big future ahead of him and is a regular for the Town's Under 18s.

A Shepherds Bush native, Kevin GALLEN established himself as something of a legend at QPR. He notched up over 400 appearances and hit 97 goals for the R's in two spells spanning nearly 14 years. Gallen joined Huddersfield 2000 and after 10 goals in 30 starts for the Terriers, Gallen moved across Yorkshire to join Barnsley the following summer, but the call of West London saw him return to QPR within a few months. He scored nine goals in 16 league starts for MK Dons before joining Luton on loan. After a successful loan spell Gallen joined permanently in January 2009, signing until the end of the season before agreeing a one year contract extension with the club in May keeping him at Kenilworth Road until June 2010.

## \* FIVE MORE THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT .. LUTON

\* Luton first played in the top flight on English football in 1955. They may have done so earlier but for the intervention of the Adolf Hitler! They were top of the old Division Two when the outbreak of the Second World War brought the suspension of the league in September 1939.

\* Luton were FA Cup finalists 50 years ago; losing the 1959 final 2-1 to Nottingham Forest.

6ft 3in striker Liam HATCH signed for the Hatters on a season-long loan from Peterborough United in June 2009. Hatch started his career with Herne Bay before a move to neighbours Gravesend & Northfleet in 2001. A successful spell at Stonebridge Road saw him transferred to Barnet for £17,500 where he helped the Bees to promotion to the Football League with 11 league goals in the 2004/05 campaign. His form at Underhill alerted the attention of Peterborough United who paid £150,000 for the striker's services. With first team opportunities limited at London Road Hatch was sent on-loan to Darlington during the 2008/09 campaign where he hit nine goals in 29 league and cup appearances at the Darlington Arena.

Lightening quick striker with superb goalscoring record at non-league level, Mark NWOKEJI signed on loan until January from League Two outfit Dagenham & Redbridge.

Prolific striker Matthew BARNES-HOMER joined the Hatters initially on a month's loan from Kidderminster Harriers and has agreed a two-and-a-half year contract to move permanently when the transfer window re-opens on 1st January. After notching 21 goals in all competitions last season, the powerful forward has scored nine times in 20 league appearances this term and, since arriving at the Worcestershire club in 2007, has hit an impressive tally of 34 goals in 77 starts. Barnes-Homer also enjoyed a dream start to his international career when he netted the winner on his debut for England C in their 2-1 win over Poland in November. An energetic talent, the front man began his career as a trainee at Wolves before going on to lead something of a nomadic life prior to finding his feet at Kidderminster. After leaving Molineux he tried his luck in the United States before returning to England and, following success with a clutch of non-league sides, Barnes-Homer was snapped by Wycombe Wanderers. He struggled to make an impression at Adam Park but, after being released at the end of the 2006/07 season, Harriers manager Mark Yates beat off competition from a host of sides to capture his signature. His form in front of goal at Kidderminster had alerted the attentions of a number of Football League teams but Barnes-Homer was suitably impressed by the Hatters' vision and became Richard Money's first signing for the club.

\* This is Luton's first appearance in the FA Trophy.

\* For many years, Luton was the centre of the hat-making industry - hence the nickname 'The Hatters'.

\* First recorded as 'Lygetun' in 792 then as 'Loitone' in the Domesday Book, the place name Luton comes from the Celtic meaning 'Farmstead on the River Lea'.

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# INSIDESTORY

LUTON TOWN PRESS OFFICER ANDREW BARRINGER

It doesn't seem five minutes since we last grabbed a few minutes with The Hatters press office Andrew Barringer. Eleven goals later and he and the Luton faithful will be making the short trip to the Abbey once again for this FA Trophy tie. With the two games between us described as 'fantastic for the neutrals' and viewed as nightmares for both the home sides who saw two goal leads thrown away, what are the chances of a nil-nil draw today?

As I'll be faced with producing four programmes in a six day period I really - and no offence to the Cambridge fans - hope we do the business today. The Christmas period really is a major headache for those of us who have to piece a matchday magazine together. If printing deadlines aren't bad enough Sussex Police decided they didn't want us celebrating a belated Christmas away at Eastbourne so we now have an extra game at Kenilworth Road to deal with before we reach the New Year.

**As we are now half way through the season, how are you finding life in the Blue Square Premiership?**

It's an interesting league to look at from a newcomers' point of view. There are two distinctive camps. The ex-football league clubs like yourselves and us and not wishing to belittle them, there are what you can call the traditional non-league sides like Altrincham and Grays. The first type offer the facilities the fans would expect and, obviously on a purely selfish tip, offering all the press facilities that makes this job easier. Whereas the second kind offer open terraces for the hardy away supporter and, if you are lucky, a plug socket for the rest of our media corps and myself to share.

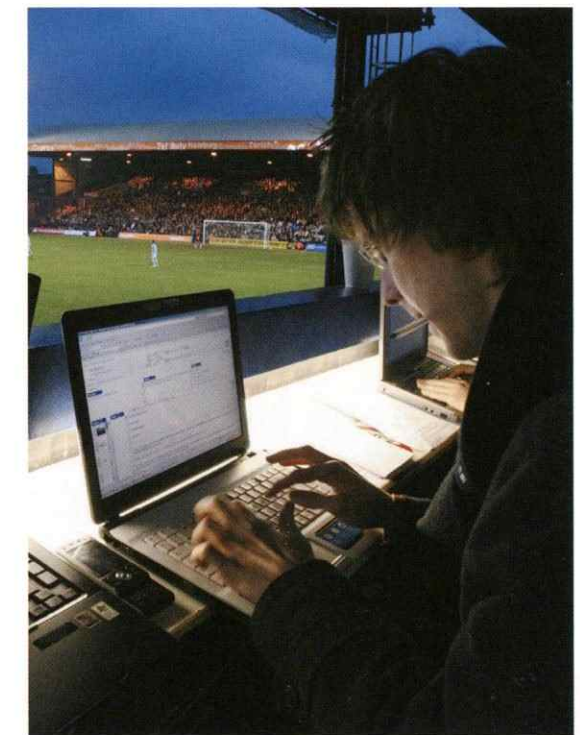
Saying that, there is something a little romantic about trips to these clubs though it's always tempered with the thought if we don't push on in the league we may have to pay them a second visit - something I'd happily skip if it means a return to The Recreation Ground in Grays.

**You did win there though?**

Yes we won but it wasn't the result that puts me off the place. OK, to be fair it was a foul Saturday afternoon in weather terms; driving wind and rain trying to outspurt each other across the pitch. There was about 1600 fans in the ground and about 1400 of them seemed to be supporting us; and the majority of those were getting soaked to the skin.

Meanwhile even the folks in the flats couldn't either be bothered to come out to the balconies to watch the action just peering out of the windows. There was even one lady who was busy vacuuming, oblivious to the action taking place literally on her doorstep. Still being dry and warm I'm sure she had the last laugh.

The other thing about my trip to Grays was the welcome. We arrived to blank faces from all the office staff that seemed a tad confused as to why people would want to travel from Bedfordshire to cover a Luton Town away game. We were eventually granted entry with the jovial remark that they hoped we had our pens and paper handy. I stopped short of



showing them what a laptop is!

**So you want to be making your stay in the world of non-league a short one. Are you leaving it a bit late for automatic promotion?**

You have to look at the title being Oxford's to lose at the moment, but as they have a history of doing just that and with Stevenage not being too far behind there is always the possibility that it could be a return trip to Wembley for us in the play-offs. And if we could meet Oxford there with both teams' fan bases I'm sure all the non-league attendance records would be smashed. We took 40,000 to Wembley for the Johnstones Paint Trophy last year and for a game of that importance I'm sure we sell more than that.

**So following the victory over Rotherham in mid-week it could be three trips to Wembley?**

I don't know about the F.A. Cup! I'd take a win against Southampton and then draw Watford in the Forth round if possible.

But The Trophy is a competition we want to win. Despite having perhaps the toughest draw we could have got I still think we have a great chance in doing just that. Mind you if we do go two-nil up today I won't be planning anything for the next round until the final whistle blows.

Interview by David Gray

# TODAY'S FIXTURES

## The FA Carlsberg Trophy First Round Proper

AFC Wimbledon v Boreham Wood  
 Arlesey Town v Chippenham Town  
 Bashley v Crawley Town  
 Bishop's Stortford v Maidenhead United  
 Blyth Spartans v Ilkeston Town  
 Cambridge United v Luton Town  
 Carshalton Athletic v Northwood  
 Chelmsford City v Truro City  
 Corby Town v Farsley Celtic  
 Farnborough v Newport County  
 Gateshead v Harrogate Town  
 Guiseley v Redditch United  
 Hampton & Richmond Borough v Lewes  
 Havant & Waterlooville v Dover Athletic  
 Hinckley United v York City  
 Kettering Town v Barrow

Maidstone United v Histon  
 Mansfield Town v Tamworth  
 Matlock Town v Kidderminster Harriers  
 Nantwich Town v Stalybridge Celtic  
 Oxford United v Hayes & Yeading United  
 Rushden & Diamonds v Billericay Town  
 Southport v Gainsborough Trinity  
 Stevenage Borough v Ebbsfleet United  
 Vauxhall Motors v King's Lynn  
 Welling United v Eastbourne Borough  
 Weymouth v Salisbury City  
 Worcester City v Grays Athletic  
 Woking v Forest Green Rovers  
 Workington v Nuneaton Town  
 Wrexham v Altrincham  
**Last Night's Match**  
 Chester City v Fleetwood Town

# THE GHOSTS OF PROGRAMMIES PAST

ANDREW BENNETT

No-one who was there will forget Paul Carden's stunning forty-yard strike against Rushden at the Abbey last month. There may have been an element of assistance from the strong wind, but there can be no doubt that the United skipper's shot went more or less where he had intended it to go. The programme from a match with Exeter City on this day in 1997 revealed an altogether more modest goalscorer:

"It's not often you'll find a footballer a little bit sheepish after scoring with a long-range effort. But that's exactly what Paul Wilson was after his 35-yard free-kick sailed in at his former club Scunthorpe last month.

"The experienced left-back recalls the goal saying: "It was all a bit embarrassing really and I'm afraid I've got to tell you, it was a fluke. I'd seen Paul Wanless make a little bit of a run at the near post so I tried to hit him with the free-kick. And then, what happened was just one of those things.

"Initially, I thought the ball had gone over the bar because everything just fell quiet. But then their keeper starts to pick the ball out of the net and all our lads start running towards me to celebrate.

"I spoke to their lads after the game and they all said, 'You can't have meant that?' I've had to hold my hands up then and say 'No I didn't!'"

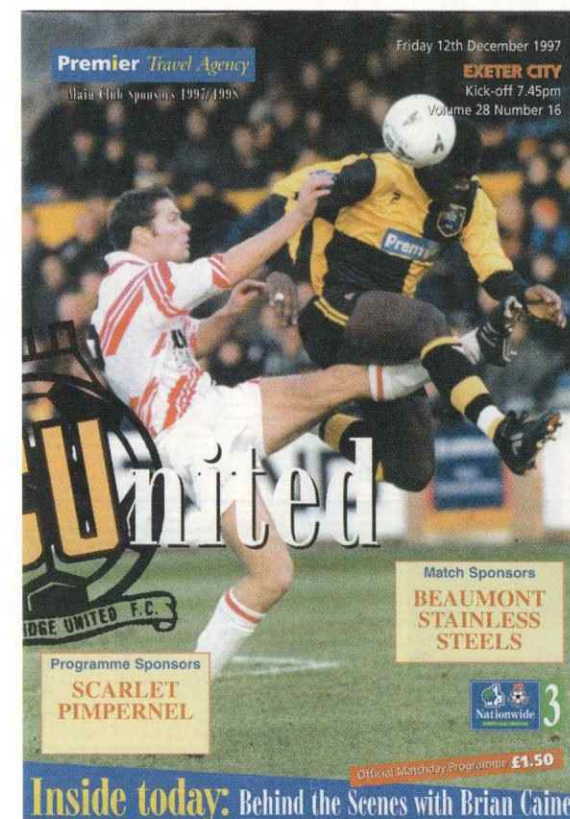
Full marks for modesty, and honesty, too. Modesty of a rather more unintentional kind was recorded by Mark Johnson in his Traveller's Tales from the programme on this day in 1998, reviewing a recent 3-3 draw at The Shay:

"Halifax Town have selected an unusual tune to play when the teams run out. It's called 'The March of the Gladiators,' and you might think 'that sounds all very impressive ... but I've never heard of it!'"

"If that's the case, let me enlighten you - it's the tune they play at the circus when the clowns appear!"

One organisation never afraid to blow its own trumpet is our very own Supporters Club. On this day in 1953 United were facing the biggest FA Cup game in their history, the Eastern Counties League U's taking on Third Division giants Bradford Park Avenue in the Second Round Proper. The Secretary of the Club wasted no time in his programme notes in singing its praises to drum up more custom from a capacity crowd of 10,000:

"I am pleased to state that our membership has been swelled by some 200 members during the past three weeks



and the Management Committee extend a warm welcome to those who have recently joined our ranks.

"I would mention that the amenities of our Club-room are available to any of our Members wishing to take part. In addition to our usual Monday night Whist Drives, and Dancing on Tuesday nights, social evenings are also arranged for most Thursday and Friday nights, when Members from other Supporters' Clubs in the Cambridgeshire district visit us.

"The installation of our Central Heating plant is now well in hand. It is expected to have this temporarily in operation within the next fortnight, and finally completed early in January."

He hadn't been joking when he had extended 'a very warm welcome' to their visitors from Yorkshire that afternoon...

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Good afternoon and welcome to the R Costings Abbey Stadium for this FA Trophy clash with Luton Town. If we get a game today that rivals the last two then it means we are in for some more great football entertainment.

I drove away from Kenilworth Road recently elated from the last minute equaliser from Danny Crow, and driving to Bristol (via Bedford to drop my son off) in awful weather conditions I did so still buoyed by the scenes at the end of the game, making the trip all the easier. So more of the same please but with a home win would be nice.

With so many home games coming thick and fast it has meant greater pressure to find sponsors for them and faced with a tough economic climate, end of year budget restrictions and Christmas to contend with, it has not been easy. So it is great that we have people like John Blake and Garry Chapman willing to do the same as our league fixture and sponsor the match and the matchball, only this time they have swapped them round!

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guests, a wedding or a County Show for many thousands of visitors, we have the marquees and the expertise to make your event a total success.

## Programme Sponsors: Anglia Doors Ltd

A warm welcome to Michael Richardson and his colleagues from Anglia Doors who are sponsors for the first time today, and they recently partnered the club by supplying a new electric partition wall for the Harris Suite which has set the area off superbly.

About Anglia Doors Ltd: From our humble beginnings in 2003 from a lock up unit to our present fully equipped workshop we have endeavoured to make our customer service and back up our priority and to make this key to our future growth.

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We hope they have a great day with us that sees the U's through to the next round.

We still have a few places left for our meal packages on the 18th for our "Full Monty" Christmas dinner with Paul Wanless as our Legend guest speaker and after match disco at £37.50 per person and our hot and cold Boxing Day buffet against Stevenage at the same price. Both offer exceptional value for fans wanting to bring relatives or guests to one of the big games over the Christmas period. Please contact the commercial team for more details by email [commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge-united.co.uk) or 07590 963309.

Finally if you haven't managed yet to pop into our new Grafton centre City store please try and get there soon to take a look. We have something for everyone's Christmas stocking!

Up the U's

Gary Atyes  
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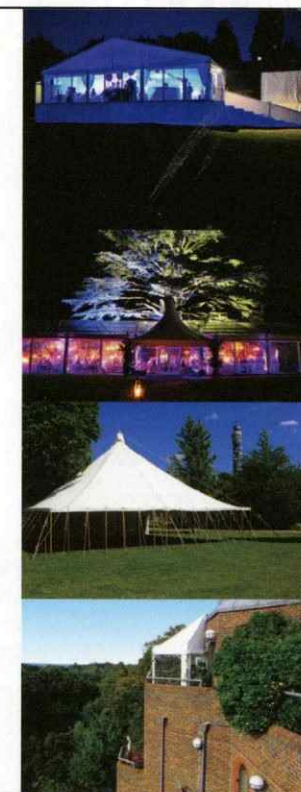
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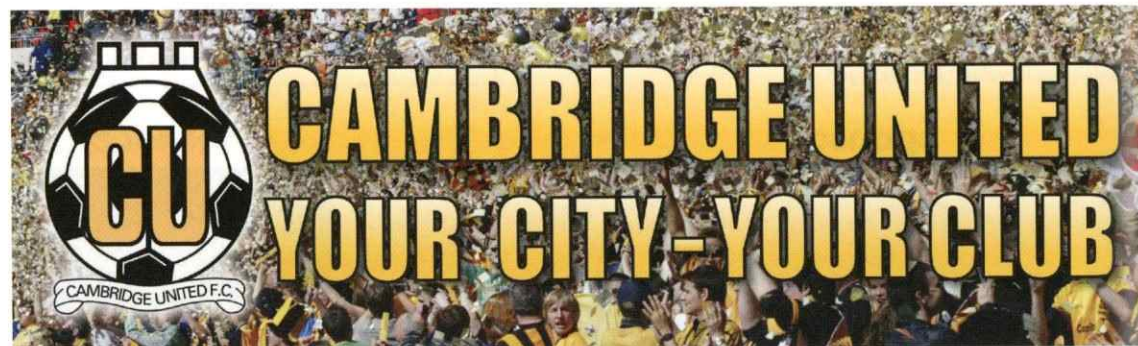
# SPONSORS' GALLERY



Brian Saah receives the Man of the Match award for the game against Chester City from a representative of Match Sponsors Camlab.



Josh Coulson presents representatives of Chester City Match Ball Sponsor, Cambridgeshire Football Association, with a signed football.



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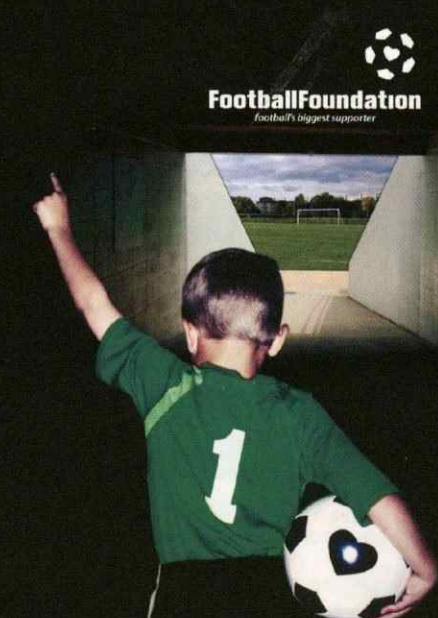
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# PLANET FOOTBALL

MIKE BARNES

Their World Cup qualifying campaign seemed to take forever to get going, but Portugal eventually made it to South Africa, where a possible semi-final encounter with England awaits them.

A 4-0 win over Malta began their quest for a place in next summer's finals, but after that the Portuguese struggled to convince anyone but their most loyal followers that they even had a chance. Defeat by Denmark in Lisbon followed by two goalless draws against Sweden and a third against Albania increased the pressure on coach Carlos Queiroz before back to back wins over Hungary renewed their hopes and another 4-0 victory against Malta secured a play-off spot at Sweden's expense.

Leading 1-0 from the home first leg against Bosnia-Herzegovina courtesy of a Bruno Alves goal (pictured), Portugal emerged triumphant from the lion's den in Zenica after Raul Meireles' second-half strike gave them a 2-0 aggregate victory and a berth in South Africa.

Benfica fan Ricardo Alves told Planet Football of his reactions to the draw and his hopes for next summer. "After the draw, we know that Brazil (our brother country), Ivory Coast (the Elephants) and North Korea (the impenetrable country) are in our group. At first glance we are tempted to say that Brazil and Portugal are the favorites to reach the next stage, but Ivory Coast is no longer unknown. In fact, they are the second best placed African team - 16th in the FIFA rankings - after Cameroon."

"Brazil needs no explanation and the probability of them reaching another World Cup Final is huge," Ricardo



continued. "History is on their side and their current squad is full of talent and quality. Many of the Ivory Coast's players have performed at the highest level in Europe - and, ironically, their coach is Bosnian!"

Ricardo is certain that North Korea will prop up the group and, like all his compatriots, knows well their place in Portuguese World Cup history. "Their only participation in the World Cup was in 1966 when they upset Italy 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals. There, they lost 5-3 to Portugal despite taking a 3-0 lead in what is even today remembered in Portugal as an amazing game, with the great Eusebio scoring four of our goals."

Like most observers, Ricardo thinks his country will qualify from the knock-out stage in the 'group of death', together with Brazil, but knows that the crunch match could be Portugal's opening clash with Ivory Coast in Port Elizabeth. The African-born Queiroz will not be taking Droghda and Co lightly, but he does have a

substantial amount of talent at his disposal, notably Cristiano Ronaldo.

"It's a fantastic group for world football," said Queiroz after the draw, "but deep down I hope that we're already qualified by the time we face Brazil in our third match." Dunga, his Brazilian counterpart retorted: "I don't like all that 'group of death' stuff. Of course, we've got a huge rivalry with Portugal. We've played twice against them recently, winning one and losing one, but this will be a different story altogether - it's the World Cup. Portugal have got three Brazilians (Pepe, Deco and Liedson) in their team so it's going to be like Brazil versus Brazil B!"

Vahid Halilhodzic, Ivory Coast's Bosnian coach, took a different view. "To be honest it's a terrible group," he said. "Brazil are second in the FIFA rankings and Portugal are fifth. It's hard to imagine anything worse than that."

**UNITED**

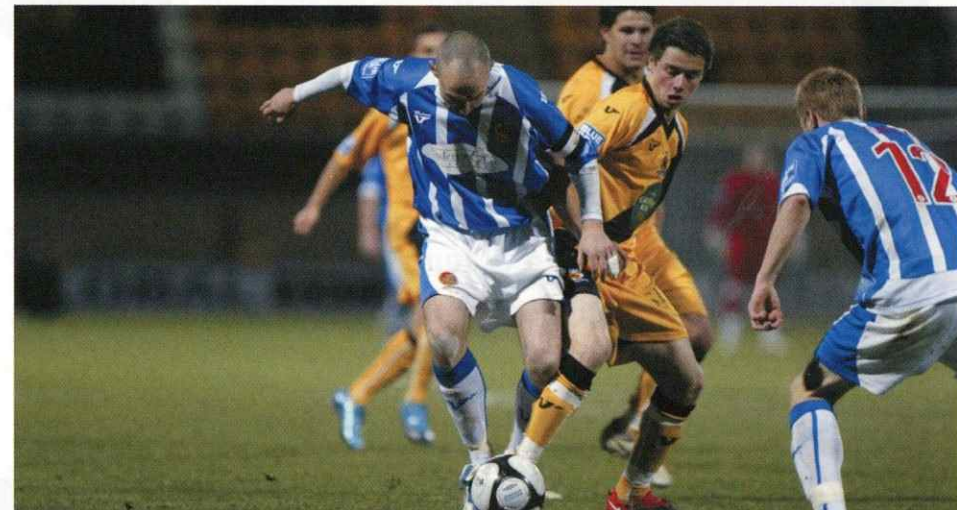
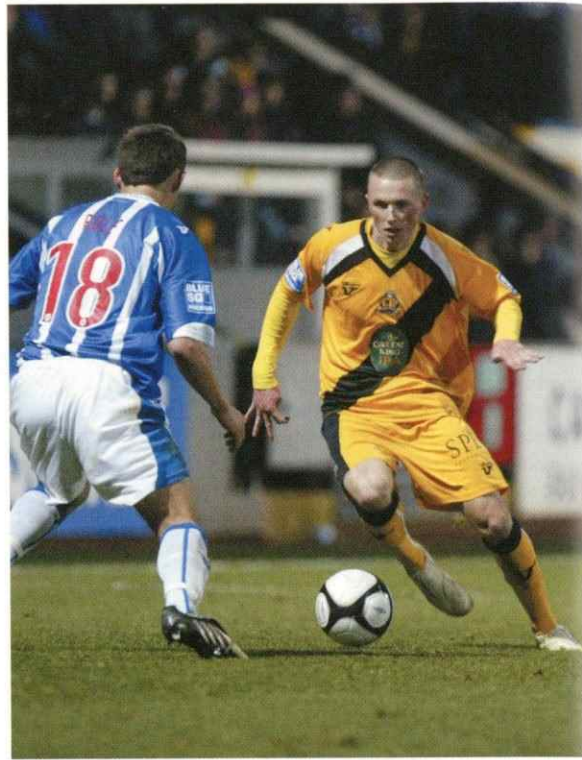
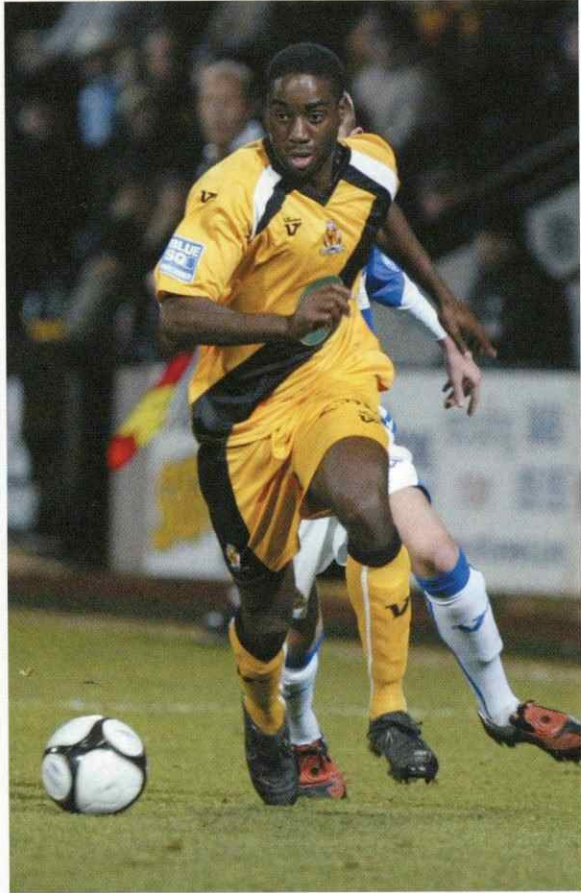
Crow

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**UNITED**

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UNUSED SUBS:

WALKER, PARKINSON



**CHESTER**

DANBY, ROBERTS, KELLY, RYAN, RULE, WILKINSON (REA), BARRY, OWEN, MEYNELL, ELLAMS, CHADWICK

UNUSED SUBS:

MURPHY, RAWLINSON, FREEMAN, JONES

FAR LEFT: Brian Saah brings the ball out of defence.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Sam Ives wins a midfield battle.

TOP LEFT: Chris Holroyd runs at a defender.

PHOTOS: GORDON McMILLAN [www.mcmillanimage.com](http://www.mcmillanimage.com)

BOTTOM LEFT: Adam Marriott fires a shot on goal.

TOP RIGHT: Danny Crow's looping header ends the match on a high note for the U's.

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# WHO NEEDS A MAGIC SPONGE THE BEAUTIFUL GAME

ADRIAN ROBERTS

So, how long will it be before the physio decides to do away with the day to day contents of his bag? Will there come a day when the 'magic sponge' ceases to be the miraculous cure it's been for ... well forever. When a player hits the deck after a crunching tackle, what will the physio produce from his bag as a replacement for the enchanting drenched sponge in his bid to bring the player to his feet? It seems the 'new' trendy treatment for football players (rich ones at least) is the magic horse-placenta!

Have you ever heard of anything so ridiculous? Yeah, we know there are stem cells research results which show that scientists have found a way to make human sperm from embryonic stem cells in a laboratory and they can even use human embryonic stem-cells to produce temporary skin substitutes for patients awaiting skin grafts after serious burn injuries. But the use of horse placenta on injured football players' injuries - who can possibly back that up as a way forward for physio's treatment?

There have recently been a string of Premiership footballers opting for the 'placenta treatment' from a certain Serbian housewife at her 'clinic' in Belgrade. Of course, it could only happen in the Premiership couldn't it? They're the only ones rich enough and daft enough to believe in it's healing qualities!

It's probably another one of those old wives tales you hear about isn't it. Sure, some of these old wives tales do carry some weight and are believed to be true. As a kid, if you got nettled on your ankles whilst retrieving the ball from the over-grown grass around the pitch, you could grab a dock leaf, rub it on the stinging wound and immediately, the painful sensation was relieved. Then there's the other one that used to catch me out. If you pick too many dandelions, you wee the bed



that night! Well, sadly, I was often the first one out when we played 'One-man-Wembley' and when the rest of your mates are still playing, what else is there to do when you're sat at the back of the goal but make daisy chains and pick dandelions? No wonder I needed a special mattress cover into my teens!

The radical physio Mariana Kovacevic who is reported to have treated such players as Robin Van Persie, Glen Johnson and Frank Lampard (for starters) uses the liquid from a horse-placenta to treat the players' injuries. She has now apparently done a runner (recently spotted carrying big bags of Premiership club supporters' cash) and is under investigation from health officials.

It's no substitute for the legendary 'magic sponge' though is it? Let's look at the facts, our physio's have used the 'sponge' for generations and the players often make an almost immediate recovery after it's been applied to the injury. The 'sponge' is inexpensive, convenient, easily obtainable and has never been under investigation by the NHS. The horse-placenta treatment however, is messy, very expensive, messy, far away in

another country, messy, never been researched, unethical and could (according to medical experts) cause long term damage to muscle injuries, and it's messy!

No argument there then - it's the magic sponge for me every time.

If the horse-placenta treatment becomes part and parcel of the modern day game, then so be it. We'd see the last of the dreaded queue for the physio treatment room as the injury list piles up, there would be no selection headaches for the gaffer with regard to team selection on matchdays and all the players would give there all as there would be more competition for places within the squad.

For now, let's stick with the traditional approach to injuries and tackle them in an ethical manner!

Let's hope the magic sponge stays in the physio's bag during today's game and our boys remain injury free as we march on to victory and the three points we need. If the game does start to look a little stale, you could always clear the perimeter of the pitch and pick the dandelions, if you dare!

# RESPECT

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# Stuart Wood

## CLUB CHAPLAIN



*"Imagine a year without Christmas. No crowded Malls, no corny office parties, no fruitcakes, no unwanted presents."*

That is the opening text on the back of the latest John Grisham novel I am reading (an author I really enjoy reading). The book is called "Skipping Christmas" and has been made into a film starring Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis called "Christmas with the Kranks".

The story revolves around a decision taken by Luther and Nora Krank to skip Christmas and go away for a 10-day cruise on the money they save. "But as this weary couple is about to discover, skipping Christmas brings enormous consequences - and isn't half as easy as they'd imagined."

I won't spoil the story, or the film, but it is well worth a read/watch as appropriate.

But it kind of got me thinking as well.

I was in e-mail communication with a colleague recently and we were talking about how busy things get at Christmas within our Churches - and wondering what it would be like to fast forward three weeks to save a lot of stress and to actually get some sleep!

I must admit, that at times the busyness of the Christmas season does mount up and feel too much - "next year we won't do that many services" never seems to make a blind bit of difference as the year rolls round to December again! But would I really want to skip Christmas?

Perhaps the answer to that question depends on how I define 'Christmas'? Christmas can mean so many things - school plays and productions, office parties, food and drink, presents,

decorations and trees, Ice Skating (for the past three years in Cambridge at least - NB Don't forget 'Carols on Ice' at the Ice Rink on Parkers Piece, 7pm Monday 14 December!), perhaps for some attending Church, and not forgetting of course the get-togethers with family and friends...

Speaking of which, did you hear about that hotel chain that were offering the 'Mother-in-law' room rate:

### Offload the in-laws this Christmas

Every Christmas, families up and down the country start preparing for the dreaded in-law invasion. Tensions, tears and tantrums often make it the season high anxiety with husbands and wives pushed to breaking point, arguing over who has the most tiring relatives.

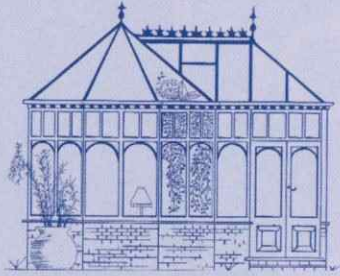
Well now there's no need for the great escape to the pub with the new mother-in-law rate.

For sure, if this is your experience of Christmas - over-spending, family tensions and consuming too much food and drink then the idea of skipping it isn't a bad one, especially when the kids fly the nest.

But could I suggest that in many ways, many folk do skip Christmas year after year? They miss what Christmas is really all about; they forget that it is a time to celebrate the birth of the Baby Jesus, born the Saviour of the World; they skip the joy that this wonderful message brings - as was demonstrated that first Christmas by the Shepherds.

May it be that in the run up to the big day in all of the added pressures on time and bank accounts, that we do not skip the true Christmas celebration. Someone remarked to me the other day, "Christmas is all about the children". Well, kind of, it is all about a child for sure, and a very special one at that.

Stuart



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# INTHECOMMUNITY

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LEARNING MENTOR

My name is Mike Langran, I am retired and on Tuesday afternoons I voluntarily give time to the Playing for Success sessions at the Learning Centre. My day is totally different to the staff of the Cambridge United, United in Learning centre based in the South Stand. They are Jez Daniel (Study learning centre manager) Helen Paterson (Study Learning Centre teacher) and Franco Nacca (Study Learning Centre Mentor) and they work full time in teaching where as I only work 3.00pm to 6.00pm on Tuesday afternoons.

### What time do you get up?

I usually wake up about 5.30am to 6.00am; I listen to either Radio 4 or the BBC world Service until my wife decides I should be up and about preparing breakfast. Her right foot in my back helps me along! That is about 7.30am.

We have an elderly lady who lives across the road that we keep an eye on; we just make sure she is about by noting if her curtains are drawn, if they are, we know she is O.K. if they are not, we give it a bit more time like half an hour, if they are still not drawn we go over and see that

she is getting up otherwise we take the necessary action required.

### What do you do before coming to the Learning Centre?

It's between the practical things keeping the house in good order such as running repairs and maintenance or leisure things. I am learning to paint using watercolours. This is the one I like to get into; I am currently attempting to paint a winter's scene that I can use for home made Christmas cards. I might go over to see our lady across the road for a chat.

### What time do you arrive?

I arrive at ten to three; speak to Jez, Helen and Franco about what's on that afternoon. Sometimes we will be going around the stadium giving information about different parts of the ground, other times we will go around the Boardroom, changing rooms etc. Another day we interview a player. Then the children arrive.

### What do you do then?

Obviously, Jez, Helen or Franco lead the sessions, I help out giving out paper,

pencils etc. When the children are working I help them along with encouragement. Sometimes when they are stuck I ask questions that the answers they give will lead them to the answer. This could be in relation to going around the ground or writing out the questions they will ask when they interview a player. The highlight for the youngsters today was when they got on the computers and did their projects. We worked on Apple Macs with an application called "Garage Band". With this you can create all types of music with all kinds of instruments, add your own voice, the staff had a good time as well with this programme!

### What time do you leave?

I leave about five past six in the afternoon. I get home about quarter past six. I have tea and then I either go to my self-help Art Group or back to the stadium for a football match. Back home at about 10.00pm

### What time do you go to bed?

I usually watch T.V. (ITV Drama) and go to bed about 11.00pm.



# PROUD SPONSOR AND OFFICIAL BEER



## IN FOCUS

### MARTIN LING

Before his appointment as Cambridge United manager at the start of this season, Martin Ling was in charge of Leyton Orient for five and a half years, making him the sixth longest-serving boss in English football as he led the O's from the brink of dropping out of the Football League up to League One.

\*After reading the first part of our interview in the previous programme, you'll know that Martin enjoyed an eighteen year playing career that began at Exeter City in 1982, ended with eight appearances for Brighton in 2000, and took in lengthy spells with Southend, Swindon and Leyton Orient, including a season in the Premiership with Swindon.

Finishing the 1999-2000 season at Brighton, he decided to hang up his playing boots at the age of 34 and take up Tommy Taylor's offer of a job as youth coach with his former club Leyton Orient.

“ IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE A LOT OF CLUBS ARE SUFFERING FROM CHASING THE DREAM. I WANT TO CHASE THE DREAM BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT IN A CALCULATED AND FINANCIALLY MEASURED WAY ”

Taylor knew Ling had embarked upon the lengthy process of gaining his coaching qualifications four years earlier and was already coaching Orient's under-15 side. As Martin said in our first instalment, "I was interested in taking that next step, and although I may have been able to play for another one or two seasons, coaching was something I always wanted to do."

"There's no better way to learn coaching than getting among the young kids and teaching them."

His youth role was two-fold; taking the under-19s (in those days most clubs operated U17 and U19 squads) and also coaching the U15s on Monday and Wednesday nights and taking their games on Sundays.

"It was a big workload but also a sharp learning curve," he says of that 14-month period, which resulted in silverware for the O's as he led the under-19s to the Football League Youth Alliance league and cup double in 2001.





**MARTIN  
LING**



The next step up came when Taylor resigned in October 2001 after five years in charge and first team coach Paul Brush took over, making Ling his assistant manager. But Brush's reign lasted just under two years before he was dismissed and Martin was appointed as caretaker manager.

Taking over a side second from bottom of the league on 27th September 2003, he knew it was a tall order: "Results have to be good when you're caretaker manager. My first game in charge was Carlisle away, they were bottom and we were second bottom, and if we'd have lost that night we would have gone bottom of the Football League.

"But we won 1-0 and had a run of good results, and in the December they gave me an 18-month contract. Every year we finished higher than we had the previous year and I think by last season I'd taken them as high as I could at that time."

Martin led Orient (above) to automatic promotion from League Two in 2006 and successfully kept them up the following season, but he feels that their start to the 2007-08 season created unrealistic expectations for an unfashionable club struggling to attract larger crowds despite their elevation.

"If I'm honest I think I probably shot myself in the foot in my second to last season," he admits. "We were top of the league for about four months and ended up fourteenth, and that was seen to be a failure rather than a success, even though the previous season we had finished fifth from bottom.

"If we'd just finished fourteenth it would have been seen as a successful season and progression, but because we'd been

top of the league for a while it was seen more as a let-down and that created pressure for the following season."

With limited funds, last season was tough and when the O's dropped into the relegation zone, chairman Barry Hearn made what he described as "the hardest decision I have had to make in 14 years as Orient chairman" and Ling and his assistant Dean Smith left the club by mutual consent in January.

"I was at Leyton Orient for twelve and a half years as a player, youth coach, assistant manager and manager and I got them success while I was there," says Martin. "He was a loyal chairman but I gave him progress each year, and if a manager gives you that then it's easy for a chairman to be loyal.

"I think if I was to walk into Leyton Orient now I would be seen as successful," he reflects. "Gordon Strachan said the other week that you should only be judged as a manager once you've finished at a club, and I think that's a good statement."

After leaving Orient, Martin did some scouting for Hibernian and set up a network of scouts for the Scottish Premier League side, and was also linked with the vacant managerial post at Port Vale before joining United in July.

After two successive play-off final appearances, he understands all too well the expectations among U's supporters, especially those who don't realise how much the playing budget has been slashed this year in comparison with the last two seasons.

"Where the difficulty lies here is that the

club has finished second and missed out in the play-offs two years running, so people say 'hold on a minute, how come Martin has come in and now we're mid-table?'," he comments.

"But the playing budget this season is a lot different to the budget in the last two seasons, and what the club needs now is some stability. You get stability by earning it, not just by saying the word.

"Supporters want us to get back in the Football League, and so do I, but it may take a little bit of time," he cautions. "That's not to say it won't happen this year, but we have to cut our cloth according to the finances and they are very different from the last two years.

"My hands are tied in that respect; people can see that the only person I've brought in is Brian (Saah) and the only person who's gone out is Challinor on loan, so there's not an abundance of money to throw about."

At the halfway stage of the season now, with United in mid-table and key games coming up against three of the top four clubs, Martin is at pains to say that the play-offs are not out of reach.

"If we can stay free of injuries and suspensions and if we can keep putting our best team out there, then we have a chance of finishing in the top five. It can happen if we can put a run of results together; teams like Kettering have shown that with their good form," says the 43-year-old.

"But the main thing is to work within the budget make sure that we don't 'chase the dream' and shoot the club in the foot



financially."

Unsurprisingly for someone who was a skilful midfielder who played alongside and for Glenn Hoddle, Martin is a great believer in playing attractive football and holds the former Chelsea, Tottenham and England manager in high regard.

"I learned a lot of good things about management from him. He was excellent at Swindon and made the right decisions at the right times. He criticised players when they needed it but also praised them when they needed picking up.

"It was his first managerial role and we were encouraged to pass the ball, and he saw the long ball game as a slight against his methods. Obviously he regarded John Beck's methods that way when we played against Cambridge, but I was at a club function the other night and John Taylor and Dion Dublin were speaking, and they said they were brilliant times.

"They said they were told what to do and they did it, and you can't knock the success of those methods. Everyone has their own beliefs about football and mine are that we'll be an effective passing team.

"'Passing with a purpose' is what I call it, so I'm probably somewhere between the two beliefs. I like my teams to pass the ball and when I was at Orient people said you can't pass your way out of League

Two, but I think we passed our way out of League Two and passed our way to the top of League One for a period.

"But sometimes you have to play the conditions so as a manager you adjust between the times when it's right to pass and the times when it's right to go a bit longer. You have to earn the right to play and obviously I was a passing player, but you do what's effective for your team, and sometimes the way you play is dependent on the players you have at your club."

Martin names David Webb, who he played for at Southend, as another influence on his managerial career, but he adds, "You take good and bad from everyone that you've worked for and try to enhance the good and avoid doing the bad things yourself."

Married to Caroline for 20 years and based in Broxbourne for 13 years, Martin has a daughter Charlotte (14) and son Samuel (12), who plays for Leyton Orient's Centre of Excellence.

"People might think it strange that I've left there and he still plays there, but he's been there since he was ten and it's probably easier for him now than it was when I was manager there," he says.

"People might have said that he was only there because of me but now they'll see he's there on his own two feet because he's a good little footballer. But for me the main thing is that he's enjoying

playing."

When not working, watching games or spending time with his family, Martin plays the odd round of golf but admits to being a "summer golfer".

"My golf clubs come out on the first of March and go back in the cupboard on the first of November - I can't see any point in being soaking wet and freezing cold on a golf course!"

There are likely to be some cold and wet afternoons and evenings ahead as United embark in the FA Trophy today and return to league action next Friday, and Martin is relishing the challenge of bringing both stability and success to Cambridge United.

"I know 'stability' isn't necessarily a word that supporters want to hear, but in the current climate a lot of clubs are suffering from chasing the dream. I want to chase the dream but we have to do it in a calculated and financially measured way," he concludes.

"This club has been within 90 minutes of the Football League in the last two years and I'm definitely not saying it can't happen this year, but we have to build and do the best we can this year within a budget that is sustainable."

**Andrea Thrussell**  
web@cambridge-united.co.uk

## ANY QUESTIONS?

**Who has had the most positive influence on your career so far?**  
My parents, and Glenn Hoddle.

**Who's the best Captain you have ever played with?**  
Colin Calderwood at Swindon.

**The best player you've played with/against?**  
With would be Glenn Hoddle, and against would be Paul Gascoigne.

**What player/team did you admire growing up and why?**  
Trevor Brooking is my favourite player of all time and West Ham is my team.

**Outside of football, are there any other sports at which you were good as a youngster and might have gone on to play professionally?**  
I played cricket to a high standard as a wicket keeper or opening batsman.

**Your top three sportsmen/women of all time?**  
Muhammad Ali, Bjorn Borg and Trevor Brooking.

**What's your favourite meal and drink?**  
Italian with a glass of white wine.

**What was the last album you bought?**  
You're having a laugh! I have to listen to the rubbish the players put on in the dressing room and the rubbish my children listen to at home!

**What was the last film you went to see?**  
The last Harry Potter film with the family.

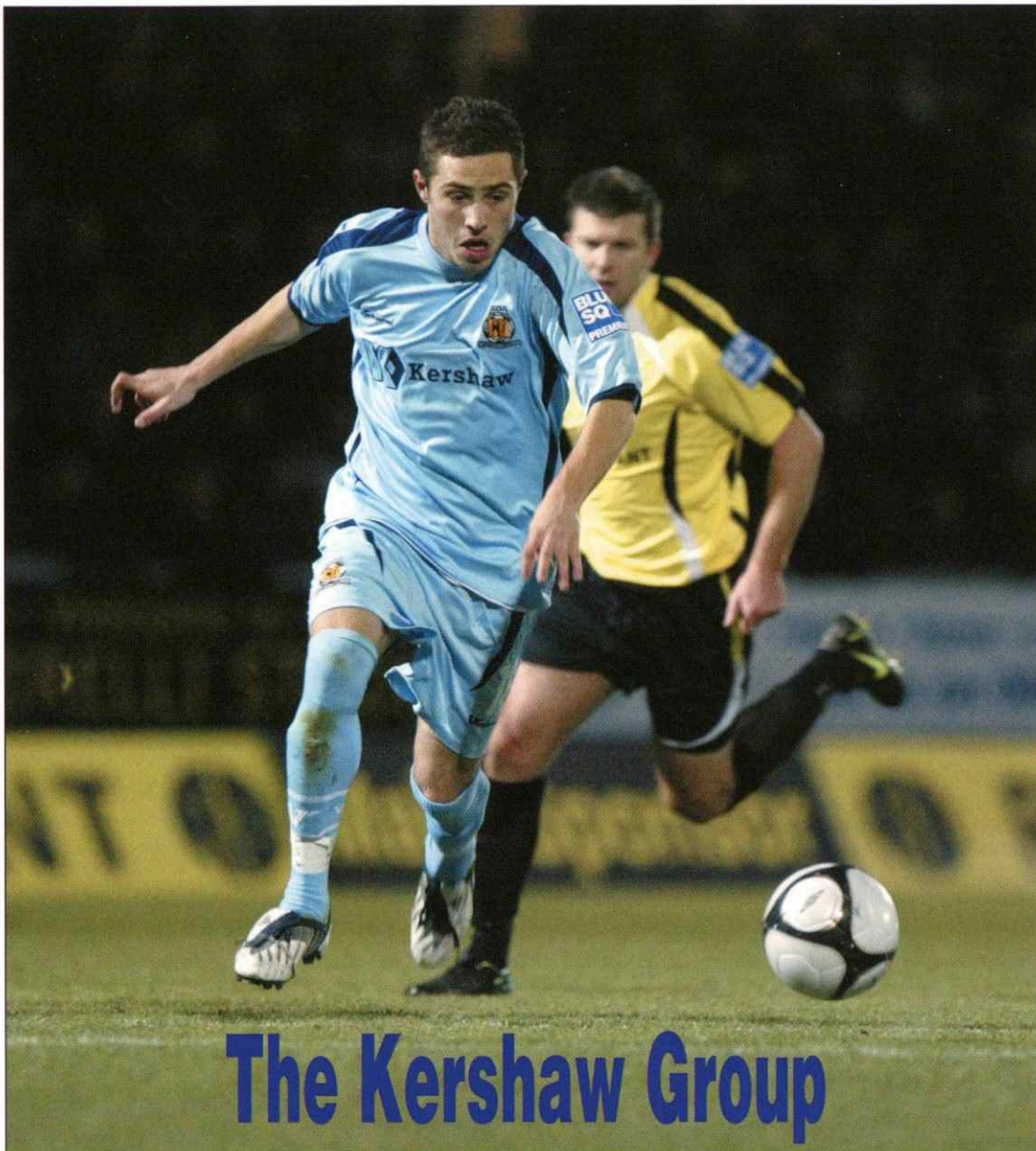
**What car do you drive?**  
A Volkswagen club car.

**Where is the furthest you have travelled to on holiday?**  
We were taken to Las Vegas by Barry Hearn when Orient won promotion.

**Where is the best place on Earth, and why?**  
My living room after a win on a Saturday night, with my family around me.

**What is the one piece of advice you would give a young player?**  
Don't leave anything to chance; practice makes permanent.

**What's the very best thing about football?**  
The feeling in the dressing room after a winning performance.



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# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

TOMORROW'S U'S TODAY

Wivenhoe Town 1 CRC 5

This was another big test as for the first time since August none of our U19/U20 players were available for selection. Second year scholars Blaine Hudson, Luke Berry, Liam Hughes, Jack Eades and Jack Bailey were restored to the starting XI, plus Martin Davies in goal, from our midweek defeat at Newmarket Town in the Ridgeons League Cup, and we were determined to maintain our long unbeaten record in the league.

Our hosts had taken a point off Leiston the previous weekend to belie their lowly position and on arriving at the ground, we knew the pitch would prove just as big a danger. I wouldn't be able to find words that could do justice to a description. Suffice to say it was unacceptable and it was a marginal decision by the referee to play the game. There was surface water and areas where your feet would sink like you were walking on quick sand! It is the first time I have ever seen a team have forking, sanding and digging up areas of the pitch as part of their warm up but that was the case (in their kit!) until they convinced the officials to give it the thumbs up at 2.20pm.

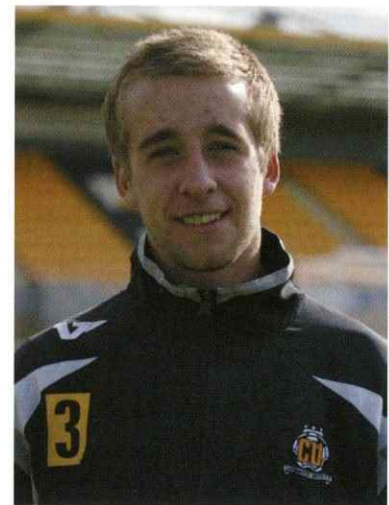
Credit should go to our boys for their professionalism in handling these conditions, especially with such a young side. We had to adapt our preferred style of play to be much more direct and look to either play off the front men or hit holes beyond their back four. Thankfully, whilst having a couple of dangerous players going forward, they were very poor defensively. A forward pass did not have to be that accurate to cause them problems and we could have been out of sight within the opening quarter of the game. Christy Finch, our recent signing from Lowestoft, should have opened his account twice but was denied once by the keeper and stretched to toe poke another chance wide from close range after a good low cross by Liam Hughes. Jack Eades was also providing his usual stream of crosses from the right but the finishing touch remained elusive. Set plays looked another potential source of a goal as the home team couldn't cope with the quality of our deliveries. It would be no exaggeration that we could/should

have scored from any of our first seven corners. Ironically, we broke the deadlock with an inswinger from Owen Kessack (pictured) that eluded everyone, including the home keeper. If we had managed to make contact, no doubt we would have found another way to miss!

The floodgates then threatened to open with two goals following in quick succession. Firstly Jack Bailey side footed home after capitalising on a misplaced back pass and then Christy Finch opened his body to stroke home a cool left footed strike into the opposite bottom corner after some decent approach play. The half ended with one or two scares at the other end to warn us against complacency and indicated the points were far from secure without more work after the break.

Our start to the second half was very disappointing. We did almost the opposite that Nolan and I had asked during the interval and allowed our hosts to gain some momentum. If they had not missed an absolute sitter, although Martin deserves credit for the save, the final half an hour could have been different. With none of our players capable of sorting out the problems themselves, and they were very basic, we had to verbally bully the players from the sideline into working with the right level of intensity. With a poor mentality comes poor decision making and that would sum up the team in this spell. The key to success on such a poor pitch is to keep things simple. We complicated things by constantly picking the wrong option. To compound this lack of intelligence, we also executed our skills poorly by not working hard or early enough to get a good body shape. As we keep stressing to the players, the little details make a big difference.

Having weathered the storm, Luke Berry took the wind out of the home team's sails by leaping above their keeper to head home from Owen Kessack's centre. Christy Finch then shot wide with just the keeper to beat and Jack Eades forced a smart save with a left footed strike before a collection of errors from a long throw gift wrapped Wivenhoe a consolation goal. Every one of our back four had the



chance to clear but we looked more like the Keystone Cops than prospective professionals. Put simply, the goal was embarrassing. At least Luke Berry ensured we finished on a high with a great goal. He ghosted past two players before unleashing a bullet with his wrong foot into the bottom corner.

Considering the conditions and the absentees, we should have been happy with our afternoons work. There is a big difference though in being a "first team" in this league versus a "development team". In striving to produce young players for Cambridge United's first team and higher, we must always demand performances rather than being satisfied simply by the right result. We want both and invariably the former will ensure the latter. On Saturday, we lacked application in the second half and our performance suffered. We must take note of the old adage - 99% concentration equals 100% failure. The players must understand that to become a professional, they must apply themselves for every minute of every training session and every minute of every match. Then they will have a chance of fulfilling their potential.

**Team:** Davies, Bevan, Kessack, Carr, Hudson, Tonks (Allen 85), Eades, Berry, Bailey, Finch (Garrett 75), Hughes

**Jez George**  
Director of Youth Football

# RIDGEONS ROUNDUP YOUTH SPONSORSHIP

King's Lynn's unfortunate demise has sent problematic waves into the Ridgeons Premier Division. The reserve team have been bumbling along here for the past few seasons and naturally, as the club finds itself in dire financial straits, their withdrawal appears imminent.

A similar situation occurred last season when Whitton were forced to drop out, with points adjusted as a result. Their downfall, which some argued could have been avoided, caused some deal of distaste.

This time, emotions are mixed. Reserve teams have long been unpopular and on top of their habitual fielding of strong mid-week sides, now they will cost their opponents points more directly. However, there is widespread sympathy for a well-liked East Anglian club.

Second-bottom Harwich will lose three of their four points if Lynn reserves cannot continue. Tony Armstrong, boss of the Essex outfit, reacted philosophically: "We will have to see what happens," he said. "We haven't got the resources to compete at this level. And until we address that problem nothing will change, we may be playing at a lower level next season."

Henry Milward

## CRC FIXTURES - RIDGEONS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

DATE	OPPONENTS	KO/RES	GOALSCORERS
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Saturday, 08	A Walsham-le-Willows	L0-1	
WEDNESDAY, 12	H WISBECH TOWN	W1-0	McAuley
SATURDAY, 15	H KING'S LYNN RESERVES	L1-2	Berry
Wednesday, 19	A Histon Reserves	W6-0	Bailey 3, Berry 2, Hudson
SATURDAY, 22	H NORWICH UNITED	W2-0	Thorpe, Berry
WEDNESDAY, 26	H NEWMARKET TOWN	W1-0	McAuley
Saturday, 29	A Felixstowe & Walton United	D1-1	Berry
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Tuesday, 01	A Haverhill Rovers	W4-2	Kessack, Eades, Marriott, OG
SATURDAY, 12	H LEISTON	W3-2	Patrick, Marriott, Kessack
Tuesday, 15	A Newmarket Town	W3-1	Patrick, Berry, McAuley
Saturday, 26	A Hadleigh United	W2-0	Marriott, Patrick
<b>OCTOBER</b>			
Saturday, 10	A Woodbridge Town	W6-0	Hudson, Eades, Berry (pen), Marriott 3
SATURDAY, 17	H MILDENHALL TOWN	W3-0	Marriott 2, Berry (pen)
SATURDAY, 24	H DEREHAM TOWN	D2-2	Patrick 2
Tuesday, 27	A Ely City	W4-1	Berry, Marriott, Hughes, Patrick
Saturday, 31	A Debenham LC	W2-0	Marriott 2
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Wednesday, 04	A Mildenhall Town	W2-0	Hudson, Bailey
Saturday, 07	A Stanway Rovers	W2-1	Bailey, OG
SATURDAY, 21	H NEEDHAM MARKET	W4-1	Marriott 3, Eades
Saturday, 28	A Wivenhoe Town	W5-1	Berry 2, Bailey, Finch, Kessack
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Wednesday, 09	A King's Lynn Reserves	P-P	
Saturday, 12	A Kirkley & Pakefield	15:00	
Saturday, 19	A Norwich United	15:00	
Saturday, 26	A Wisbech Town	11:00	
MONDAY, 28	H HISTON RESERVES	19:45	
<b>JANUARY</b>			
SATURDAY, 02	H HAVERHILL ROVERS	15:00	
SATURDAY, 09	H ELY CITY	15:00	
Saturday, 16	A Harwich & Parkeston	15:00	
SATURDAY, 30	H WALSHAM-LE-WILLOWS	15:00	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
SATURDAY, 06	H FELIXSTOWE & WALTON	15:00	
SATURDAY, 20	H HADLEIGH UNITED	15:00	
Saturday, 27	A Dereham Town	15:00	
<b>MARCH</b>			
Saturday, 13	A Leiston	15:00	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
NEEDHAM MARKET	22	16	4	2	53	20	52
CRC	20	16	2	2	54	15	50
LEISTON	21	16	1	4	59	22	49
STANWAY ROVERS	19	12	3	4	47	18	39
WISBECH TOWN (-2)	21	10	6	5	38	21	34
FELIXSTOWE & WALTON	20	10	4	6	30	32	34
KIRKLEY & PAKEFIELD	16	10	2	4	35	14	32
DEBENHAM LC	19	10	2	7	34	30	32
MILDENHALL TOWN	19	10	2	7	39	37	32
HISTON RESERVES (-1)	22	10	3	9	44	49	32
WALSHAM LE WILLOWS	21	9	4	8	40	33	31
DEREHAM TOWN	20	8	4	8	36	32	28
HADLEIGH UNITED	19	7	4	8	27	38	25
WROXHAM	15	7	3	5	31	25	24
NEWMARKET TOWN	21	7	3	11	39	39	24
NORWICH UNITED	22	6	6	10	32	38	24
HAVERHILL ROVERS	18	6	5	7	29	30	23
ELY CITY	19	7	2	10	32	38	23
KINGS LYNN RESERVES	21	3	1	17	16	56	10
WOODBIDGE TOWN	20	3	0	17	15	53	9
HARWICH & PARKESTON	19	1	1	17	13	61	4
WIVENHOE TOWN	18	0	2	16	9	51	2

SATURDAY, 20	H	WOODBIDGE TOWN	15:00
Saturday, 27	A	Needham Market	15:00
<b>APRIL</b>			
SATURDAY, 10	H	HARWICH & PARKESTON	15:00
Saturday, 17	A	Wroxham	15:00
SATURDAY, 24	H	DEBENHAM LC	15:00
<b>MAY</b>			
Saturday, 01	H	WIVENHOE TOWN	15:00
<b>TBA</b>			
	H	KIRKLEY & PAKEFIELD	
	H	STANWAY ROVERS	
	H	WROXHAM	
<b>FA CARLSBERG VASE</b>			
SEP. 06	QR1	H HUNTINGDON TOWN	W5-1 Patrick, Marriott, McAuley, Berry (pen), OG
Sep. 19	QR2	A Branham Athletic	W1-0 Marriott
OCT. 03	R1	H MARCH TOWN UNITED	W7-1 Bailey 2, Bevan, McAuley (pen), Marriott 2, Coakley
NOV. 15	R2	H ENFIELD 1893 FC	W4-1 Marriott, Hudson, Berry (pen), Patrick
Dec. 5	R3	H NEEDHAM MARKET	L1-2 Berry (pen)
<b>RIDGEONS LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP</b>			
Sep. 30	PR	A Godmanchester Rovers	W1-0 McAuley
Oct. 20	R1	A March Town United	W5-0 Marriott, Carr, Patrick, Wixon, McAuley
Nov. 24	R2	A Newmarket Town	L1-2 aet Allen
<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE FA INVITATION CUP sponsored by RIDGEONS</b>			
Oct 13	R1	A Ely City	W5-1 Berry, McAuley, Bailey, Marriott, OG
Jan. 12	R2	A Mildenhall Town or Saffron Walden	
<b>FA YOUTH CUP sponsored by E.ON - COMPETING AS CAMBRIDGE UNITED</b>			
SEP. 10	PR	H DISS TOWN	W12-0 Kessack 2, Bevan, Hughes 3, Bailey 3, Bennett, Igglesden 2
Sep. 24	QR1	A Leiston	W6-0 Hudson, Bailey 4, Bevan
Oct. 07	QR2	A Dereham Town	W4-0 Hudson, Berry, Eades, Bennett
Oct. 21	QR3	A Rothwell Town	W1-0 Eades
Nov. 03	R1	A Histon	W4-0 Hudson, Berry, Eades, Bailey
Nov. 18	R2	A Tranmere Rovers	L1-3 Tonks

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# CFU TOURNAMENT

IN CONJUNCTION WITH KELSEY KERRIDGE

The CFU are holding their annual Christmas 5-A-Side Football Tournament in conjunction with the Kelsey Kerridge. It will take place on Wednesday 30th December between 12noon and 5pm. If you would like further information please ring 07703 274034 or email [cfuinbox@btinternet.com](mailto:cfuinbox@btinternet.com)

If you would like to enter a team please fill out the form below

Please enter the following team:

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Manager/Captain: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: .....

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Shirt Colour: .....

Entries are limited to the first 16 teams to register and pay their £70!

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Further information will be sent out by email closer to the tournament date.

Please note that Cambridge Fans United and Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre cannot be held responsible for any injuries, losses etc on the day or occur during matches and the teams should make their own arrangements regarding insurance should they deem this necessary.

# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

## PROMOTING THE SCHOLARS?

**I thought that I should clarify our position regarding possible promotion for CRC from the Ridgeons Premier League following a recent article in the Cambridge News.**

The rules state that to be considered for promotion to step 4 of the pyramid, you must finish in the top two and submit an application to the Football Association by 31 December. Assuming this has been done and you then win the league, provided your ground meets the criteria, you are guaranteed promotion. If you finish second, you can be considered for promotion if the first placed team declines to go up. This application can subsequently be withdrawn but cannot be made retrospectively. This is why speculation will always be rife within all Step 5 leagues in the second half of the season as no-one's intentions are clear until they make their final decision. Lowestoft were the constant source of a "will they/won't they" debate and I will now admit to my huge relief in them accepting promotion. Last season, with Leiston and Lowestoft having hardly dropped a point between them at Christmas and with league finishes of 17th and 13th in our first two seasons, I did not even think about applying for promotion. Our subsequent second placed finish was a surprise and thankfully Lowestoft's promotion to the Ryman League meant that oversight was academic. Having looked at the rules more closely, it seems that apart from costing £150 for a ground inspection, there is nothing to lose in applying for promotion every year. Then all options remain open should you finish in the top two.

The question of "Do you want to go up?" is easy to answer. Yes. That is because you always want to develop young players by testing them at the highest possible level. To close the gap between CRC and the first team would be fantastic for the best young players and everything we do must always be aimed at the best. We are constantly trying to raise the bar in terms of our demands on the players and the standards we set on and off the pitch, so playing at a higher level of football is something we believe that would enhance and not hinder development. It would be particularly important for players immediately outside the scholarship scheme, who would already have two years of Ridgeons League experience. This development group of players aged between 18-20 and currently including Rory McAuley, Sam Ives, Adam Marriott, Jordan Patrick and Darryl Coakley, need pushing when they

are not in the first team. At present the only option would be for them to go out on loan but if we could offer them a higher level of football under our roof, even better. The benefit of these players being able to play for CRC beyond their scholarship, training with the first team but doing additional individual development sessions with Nolan Keeley and remaining under Matt Walker's tutelage in the gym has been seen when they have been called upon for first team action.

It is a far better system than any that previously existed and gives these talented youngsters the best chance of progression and bridges the gap between a scholarship and professional contract. It also gives youngsters with potential more time to develop as very few are physically ready at 17 or 18 to play regularly in the BSP or higher. What happens between the ages of 18-21 is a graveyard for many players in this country due to a lack of truly competitive reserve team football and little structure in place for their development. Therefore, they play youth football for too long and then reserve football, which is basically just an extension of youth football. A lot of much bigger clubs are intrigued by our model and believe it to be preferable to their own, and that includes clubs in the Premiership. We get players out of their comfort zone at 16. Playing men's football gives them an early taste of the real world, preparing them mentally and physically for the first team at a much younger age. Even if the club was promoted and our Under 18's were able to return to the Football League Youth Alliance, we would not choose this option ahead of our current arrangements.

Therefore, I would put a rider on our ambitions of winning the league. We will never chase promotion if it would hinder our primary aim of developing young players. As the season progresses, our team will always get younger as McAuley, Ives, Marriott, Patrick and Coakley hopefully get first team call ups. We never want to hold up their progress by wanting them to remain with us to get Ridgeons League points. We know that our strongest team, including those five players, would probably win the league but that would defeat the object of everything we are doing. On the other hand, if we win the league remaining true to our beliefs and philosophy then it would be an unbelievable achievement. All of our players are Under 20 except for goalkeeper Martin Davies and on many occasions we will be almost entirely Under 18. Bleeding

16 year olds like Jonathan Thorpe, Alex Bevan and Chris Tonks, who have all started a number of games already, is something we must never be afraid of doing. Nolan and I always tell the players to concentrate on performances and the results will follow. We must do the same by concentrating on development. Promotion will follow when we are good enough as a group.

We would always rather a first team appearance for one of our players than a win in our league because our job is to produce players ahead of winning matches. Obviously it is important to create a winning environment because that helps to develop players but we should never and won't ever be afraid of risking a result by a team selection. It is almost unbelievable to think about now but Sam Ives and Luke Berry were only paired together in midfield for CRC last September because Rory McAuley was suspended after getting sent off at Ebbwfleet. The two were magnificent in tandem for the rest of the season when at first we were not sure about playing two such young players together in that position.

Youth development is fascinating because the group is constantly evolving and with every day comes another situation, whether it's on or off the pitch, which provides a learning opportunity. The next four months will be very interesting as we get to the business end of the season in terms of decisions on our second year scholars and the recruitment of a new group. Blaine Hudson and Luke Berry have been a model of consistency over the last eighteen months while Jack Eades has made tremendous progress this season. We are looking for others to show the same improvements and respond to the challenge plus some of the first years to push ahead. Then we have the exciting prospect of how Maz and JP can take their first team opportunities when they arrive following Rory, Ivesy and Daz.

Our aim is that our youth scheme provides a conveyor belt of players for the club in many years to come. Having watched our Under 8's and 9's last weekend, I know that we have unbelievable talent at these younger age groups and the structure in place to ensure this long-term aim is achieved.

**Jeze George**  
Director of Youth Football

# SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

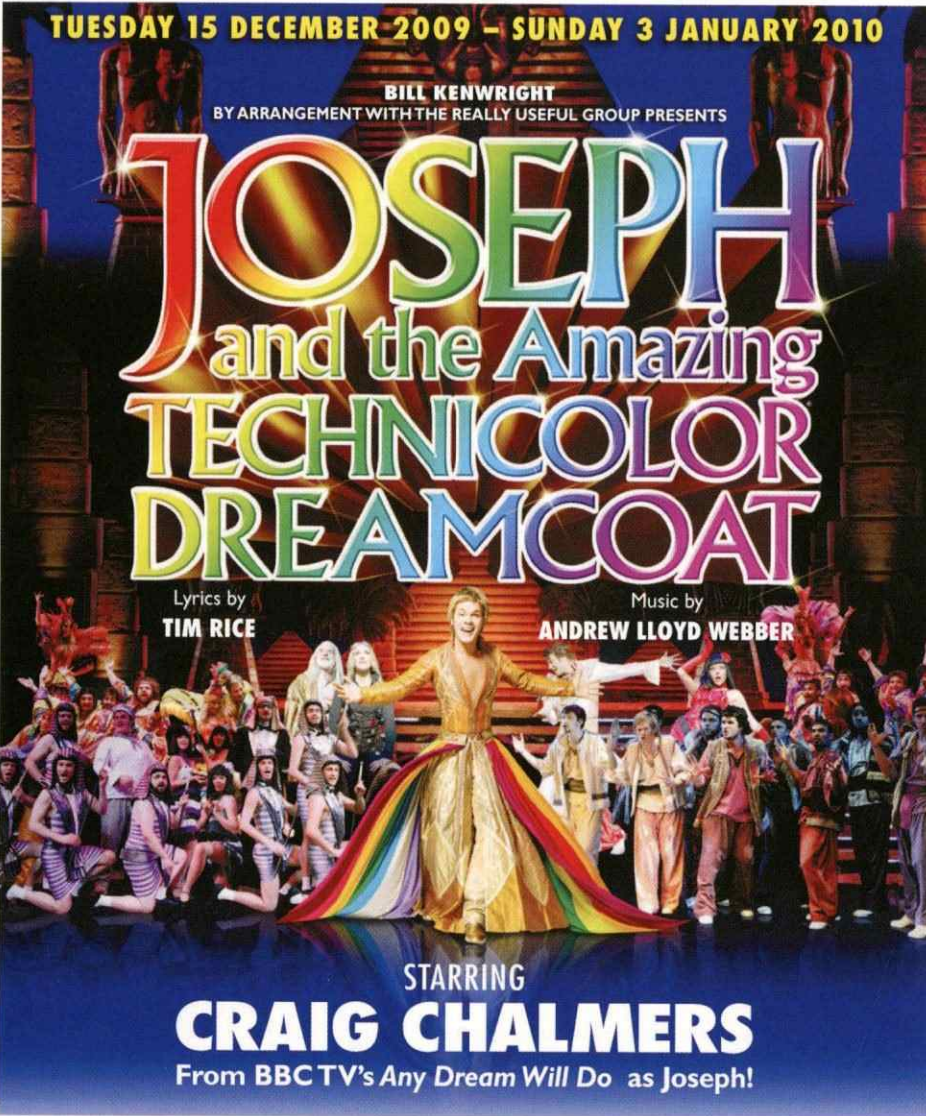
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# CAMBRIDGEWFC

KATE DaCOSTA

## Big FA Cup Fixture For Cambridge Women

Cambridge Women saw off Dudley United LFC in their Second Round proper FA Cup tie.

The women thought they'd done enough with Sophie Thompson's goal in the first half, but as the game was pulling to a close a Dudley player in a questionably offside position put away a one on one with the keeper. The Cambridge keeper was bruised badly in the challenge and tempers flared at the end of, what had been, an enjoyable fixture.

The strike from Dudley took the fixture to extra time and Cambridge felt justice was done when Sophie hit the net again in the second period of extra time.

The result means Cambridge Women face their biggest challenge yet this season against Luton Town in the next round. Luton are in the league above and regularly play the likes of Preston North End, Liverpool LFC, Newcastle United and Aston Villa. However, with only two draws to their name this season they're sitting bottom of the Northern Division so Cambridge Women have a 'giant killing' in mind when they travel this weekend.

The big game for the women is at Biggleswade F.C. on Sunday 13th December, 1pm KO - your support would be much appreciated! Cambridge Women are the last local side left in the competition so show your support for our girls!

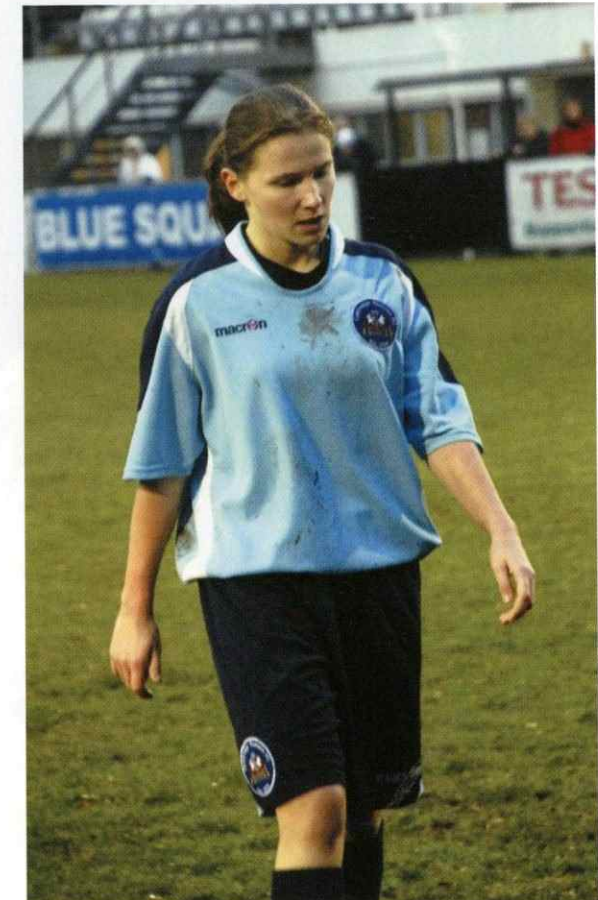
## League On Hold

The weather has put a hold on much of the play in the league - the wet weekend only seeing one fixture played.

Cambridge women travelled to second in the league MK Dons, and with only 11 players put on a spirited performance in the cold. MK Dons managed to squeeze home a cross - again after a questionable off side - on 15 minutes, but Cambridge Women kept their heads up and played some good football. They managed to hang on until deep in the second half, but then two goals in a short space of time decided the result.

The manager, Steve O'Donohue, was proud of the effort and progress the team had made since meeting MK Dons only four weeks previously at home. The women are still second from bottom, but with two teams already having withdrawn from the league this is a respectable standing for a newly formed club.

Enfield currently sit top of the table, but with only 24 points from their 11 games Gillingham still have promotion firmly on their mind - they have 21 points from only eight games. With no



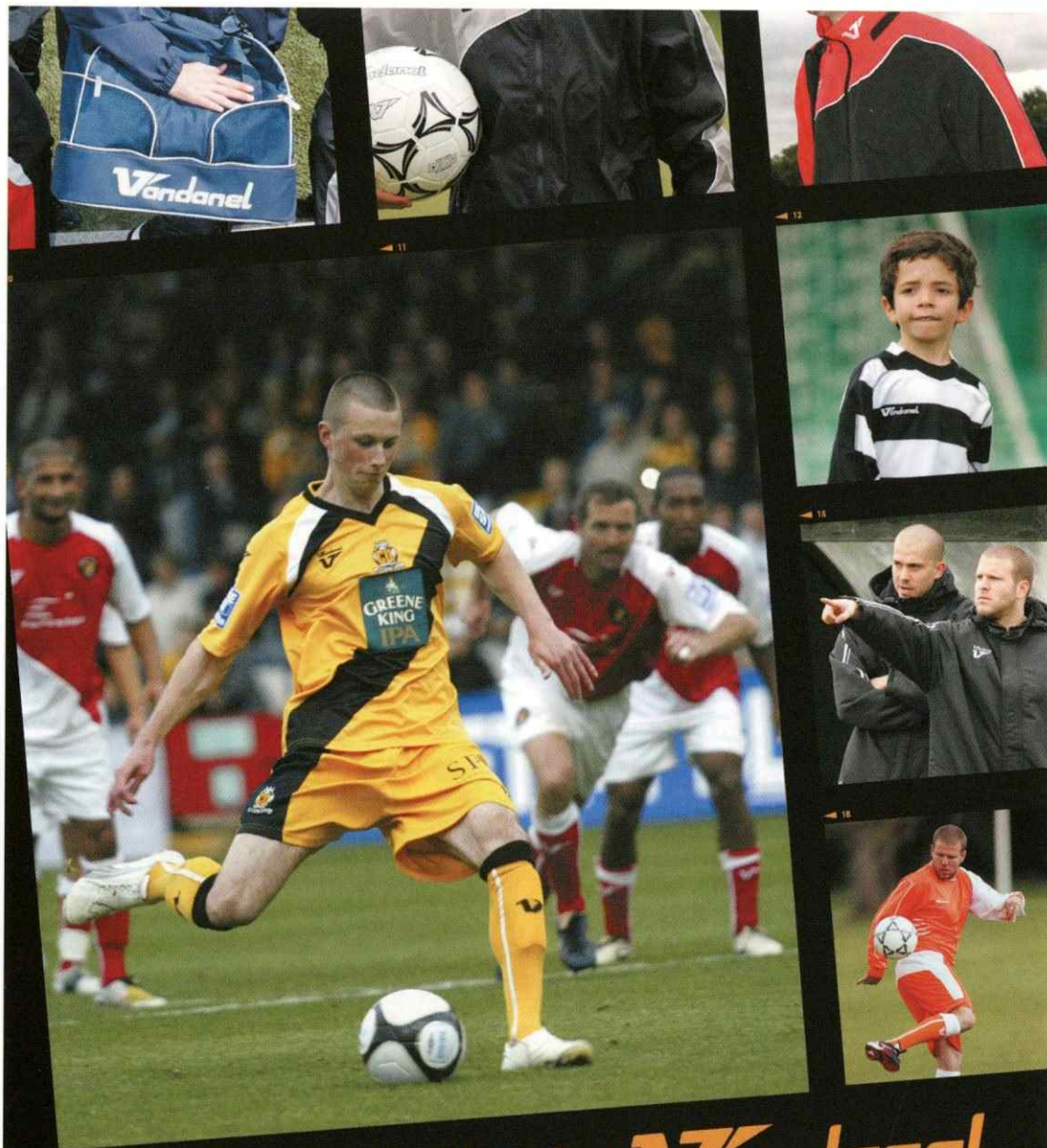
teams being relegated this year all the exciting action is up the top of the table!

If you'd like to keep track of the women's progress you can keep up to date on [www.secombination.org.uk](http://www.secombination.org.uk) and the reserve team performances can be found at [www.erwfl.co.uk](http://www.erwfl.co.uk).

## Sponsorship Raffle

The women are still desperately in need of sponsorship. If you have a business that would be willing to buy a raffle ticket for £50 with the winning company's ticket buying them (at no extra cost) sponsorship of both the first and reserve team please contact Kate Da Costa on 07740 199496 or [kdacosta@camre.ac.uk](mailto:kdacosta@camre.ac.uk).

Also, if you'd like to support the women or like more information on their progress, playing or training with them please contact Kate Da Costa the details above.



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# TALKING POINT

GORDON THEOBALD

Following the news that Premier League Clubs spent a sickening £70 million on fees to player agents last year, I wonder if it is time for the FA to show its not-inconsiderable teeth? OK, well, errrr, it's inconsiderable teeth then. You see, this isn't money spent on transfers, it's spent on making transfers ... money that goes out of the game before the ink is dry on the cheques.

Manchester City leads the league of shame by spending nearly £13m in 'facilitators' or 'deal makers' but why do we need these people at all?

To be fair, I can see certain instances where agents serve a purpose. Imagine you're a 17-year-old having just been offered your first contract at Blackburn Rovers, fancy going into the office with Sam Allardyce to negotiate appearance money? Thought not!

Or if, as a manager of a hard-up club who would like to move on a player sitting out his contract in the reserves, you could go to his agent and say "Try to find another club for your boy, 'cause he's wasting his career here."

But even in the lower divisions, agents can be the real power brokers, here's ex-United manager, Steve Thompson (pictured): "When I was in charge at Notts County, I agreed with deal for a player with the manager of another club with no agents involved. I then got a call from the player's agent who wanted £12,000 for the move to go through."

Magnify that by a hundred and you get the picture of what is happening right now in our top-flight. It simply has to stop.

So what can be done? For a start, I would like to see the PFA becoming



more involved, if they represented their players in a meaningful way, then agents may start to become surplus to requirement. I know PFA won't see it as their job to manufacture a transfer, simply to yield a signing-on fee for the player and of course, themselves. Yes, it has to stop.

## SELECT XI

NEIL COLE

- Which three countries have been drawn in England's group for the 2010 World Cup?
- Which Nottingham Forest striker's recent hat trick means he has now uniquely scored hat tricks in all four top divisions, the FA Cup, League Cup and for his country?
- Name either of the Scottish sides whose players ended up fighting in the tunnel after the match last weekend.
- In 1891, Luton Town became the first southern team to do what?
- With which manager did Arsene Wenger refuse to shake hands after their teams' recent encounter?
- In the Premiership, Football League and BSP, only two sides have lost just one match all season - name either of them.
- Oxford (45) and Stevenage (40) have scored the most goals in the BSP this season - name either of the sides on 39 goals.
- Who are the holders of the FA Trophy?
- Luton boss Richard Money played in the 1981 European Cup semi-final for which eventual Cup winners?
- Which BSP side was deducted 10 points this season?
- Which manager allegedly headbutted striker James Beattie whilst naked?

Answers on page 59



# UP AGAINST THEM

KEVIN PALMER & LEIGH EDWARDS

## Merthyr Tydfil

Merthyr Town were in the Football League from 1920 until their demise in 1934, but it was a new club that took over their Penydarren Park in 1945 and won five Southern League titles up to 1954. We met The Martyrs ten times in that League between April 1960 and February 1964, winning eight and losing none, with a biggest win of 6-2 at Penydarren Park in April 1961. The largest attendance for this fixture was 4,017 at The Abbey in March 1961. The Martyrs are still in the Southern League Premier, but are currently in administration.

## Middlesbrough

Another club who we have never lost to. Our first meeting was in the Second Division in December 1982,



when only 2,533 saw us win 2-0. In May 1983 a crowd of 9,879 inside Ayresome Park saw us win 1-0. In the '31 consecutive matches without a win' season of 1983-84 we avoided defeat against Boro with a goalless home game (2,819) and a 1-1 draw away (5,121). In January 1991, 9,531 saw us dump Boro out of the FA Cup 2-0 at home, whilst the following season we drew 1-1 away in the League (14,686) and drew 0-0 at home (7,318).

## Millwall

We have won five and lost seven of our 16 competitive meetings, with all our victories being by the odd goal. Our heaviest defeat was 5-1 at home in April 2001. The two biggest games came in the FA Cup Fourth Round in January 1990. Fourth Division Cambridge held First Division Millwall

1-1 at The Den in front of 14,573, before bringing them back to the Abbey and beating them 1-0 in extra time before a 9,531 crowd. The Lions avenged that defeat by beating us 3-2 in an FA Cup Replay at The New Den in our last clash in January 2003.

## Minehead

The FA Trophy was launched in 1969-70, and in January 1970 we played Minehead in the First Round, beating them 2-1 at home, with goals from John McKinven and George Harris, in front of 2,376. Minehead were formed in 1889 and were Western League regulars, before ascending into the Southern League between 1972 and 1983. Their finest season came in 1976-77 when they finished runners-up to Wimbledon and also reached the FA Cup Second Round. They later rejoined the Western League and are currently in its Premier Division.

## Morecambe

In December 2000, the non-league Shrimps belied their nickname by claiming bigger fry in the shape of Second Division Cambridge in an FA Cup Second Round tie at Christie Park, 2-1 in front of 3,427. By November 2005 we were both in the Conference and we won 1-0 away (1,648), and drew 2-2 at home (2,129). The following season we lost 3-1 at home (3,142) and drew 2-2 away (1,493 - some of whom are pictured left). Morecambe ascended into the Football League in May 2007 by beating Exeter 2-1 in the Play-Off Final at Wembley. They are now midtable in League Two.

## New Chesterton Institute

The New Chesterton Institute was originally known as the New

Chesterton Young Men's Union in 1885, before adopting its current moniker in 1892. Its original name gives a clue as to its purpose and it was located in Holland Road. We met them in October 1922 in the Cambs League Division Two, at our home ground of Stourbridge Common and beat them 2-1 through goals from Tom Langford and Fred Stevens. We won the return match 4-0 thanks to an Albert Dring hat-trick. N.C.I. are still competing at Sunday League level.

## New Chesterton Institute Reserves

Our first-ever season in League football came in 1921-22 in the Cambs League Division Three. We met N.C.I.'s reserve team away on 10 December 1921 and came away with a win, though the score is unrecorded. We do know the result of our home game at Stourbridge Common on 7 January 1922 as we won the match 2-0 with goals from Sid Brown and Lennox Edwards. We finished that debut season as champions, with 20 wins out of 24 games, whilst N.C.I. Reserves ended up in twelfth spot (out of 13), with just three wins to their name.

## Newcastle United

There have been 16 meetings with Toon between September 1978 and November 1992 which means we have met them in all of our eight seasons in the second tier of English football. We have won four of those games (all by the odd goal), and lost nine, the heaviest being a 4-1 defeat at St James' Park in November 1992, which was watched by a record crowd for this fixture of 27,991. The largest Abbey crowd for this game was 8,404 for the first meeting, which ended goalless. Our 1-0 win in April 1984 ended our 31 match non-winning League run.



## Newmarket Town

We have met in 14 competitive fixtures, winning half of them and losing four. Our biggest attendance came in the last of those meetings in October 1969 when we won an FA Cup Qualifying tie 6-0 at home, seen by 2,514, but 2,701 were inside the Cricket Field Road ground twenty years earlier to see The Jockeys knock us out of the Cup. In 1951-52 we beat them 7-1 at home and 6-0 away, when the Jockeys contrived to lose all 34 of their Eastern Counties League games, conceding 171 goals in the process. They're still competing in that League.

## Newnham Institute

Our only Cambs League Division Two campaign (in 1922-23) saw us successfully emulate the previous Third Division season by capturing the League title. Our biggest rivals were Newnham Institute from that south-western district of Cambridge, centred around the Hardwick Street area. We

drew our only game of that season 0-0 with them at their patch in November 1922, but won the return game 6-0 at our Stourbridge Common ground in February 1923. The Institute were more involved in table tennis and snooker after World War Two.

## Newport County

In November 1953 we were in the Eastern Counties League, and we met Third Division (South) Newport in the FA Cup First Round, drawing 2-2 at The Abbey in front of 7,500. In the replay at Somerton Park (action form another match at the ground pictured above) we beat them 2-1, seen by 7,434, our only victory as a non-league club over a League side. Our other 16 meetings were in the League, with seven wins and seven defeats. County (who reached the European Cup-Winners Cup Quarter-Finals in 1980-81) went bust in 1989, but a new club is currently competing in the Conference South.

# EASTBOURNE

Armstrong, Enver-Marum

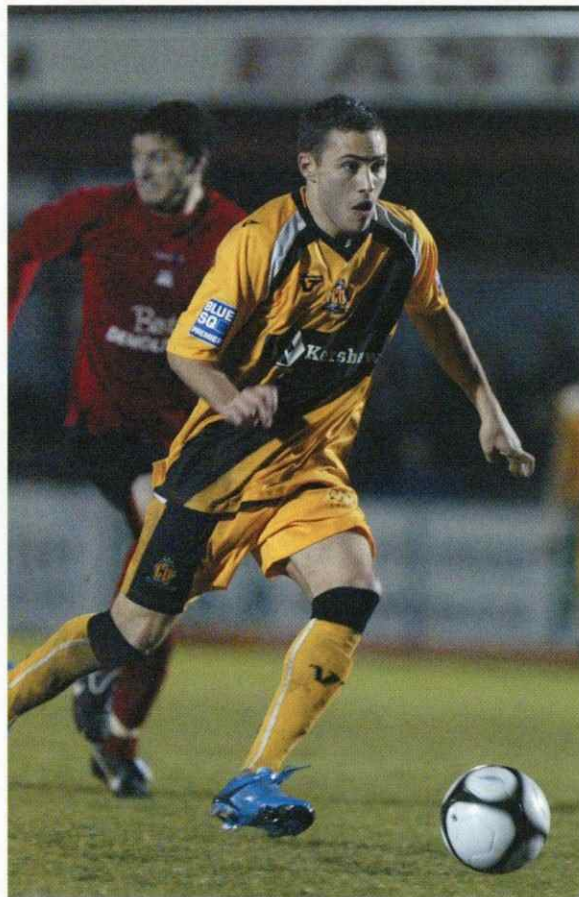
# UNITED

Austin (OG), Saah

2

2

BLUE SQUARE PREMIER  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH



## TEAM LISTS:



### UNITED

POTTER, McAULEY, SAAH, HATSWELL, COAKLEY, WILLMOTT, CARDEN, IVES (REASON), PITT, PHILLIPS (HOLROYD), CROW (BEESLEY)

UNUSED SUBS:

COULSON, PARKINSON



### EASTBOURNE

KNOWLES, BAKER, AUSTIN, ELPHICK, JENKINS, TAYLOR (SMITH), ARMSTRONG, JOHNSON, CRABB, BENJAMIN (ATKIN), ENVER-MARUM (ROWE)

UNUSED SUBS:

JORDAN, McLAGGON

FAR LEFT: Robbie Willmott advances on goal for a chance late in the game.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Rory McAuley watches closely as the ball spins off an Eastbourne defender into his own net.

TOP LEFT: Sam Ives gets stuck into the midfield battle.

PHOTOS: GORDON McMILLAN [www.mcmillanimaging.com](http://www.mcmillanimaging.com)

BOTTOM LEFT: Courtney Pitt whips in a cross.

TOP RIGHT: Brian Saah smuggles the ball over the line to level the scores.



**Match:** v Eastbourne Borough - Blue Square Premier

**Date:** Saturday, December 5th, 2009

**Result:** Eastbourne 2 Cambridge United 2

## The Journey

**Departure Time:** 9.50am

**Arrival at Ground:** Last season's journey had been something of a frustrating one along single carriageway A roads and through bottleneck towns like Tunbridge Wells, so a Plan B was the order of the day this time - a plan that basically involved heading for Brighton and turning left just before you got there. By and large it kept to free-moving dual carriageways and although it was certainly further and probably took longer, it later transpired that this was the way the locals generally go.

So after only a little bit of winding our way through rolling countryside towards the end of the journey, we arrived in the large car park at the ground a little after 12.30pm.

## At The Ground

**The Ground:** Some distance from the sea, the ground is down one of the bungalow-lined side streets on the edge of one of the newer suburbs of Eastbourne and, as a result, seems to have a lot of land with which to play. This is evidenced by the large car park around the side of the

ground, the large, single-storey social club that stands deferentially a little to the side of the ground and the pitch on which Eastbourne's A Team usually play. It wasn't Eastbourne's A Team in action when we got there though; by happenstance, we arrived just in time to see the United fans' team losing narrowly to their Eastbourne counterparts.

A few turnstiles allow access from the side car park into the ground. However, you follow a wide, puddle-strewn path between the A Team pitch on your left and the social club on your right to get to the main entrance. Here, a two-storey building contains dressing rooms and corporate entertaining areas; the main turnstiles are in a corner of the ground, abutting this building.

Inside the ground, to your right, a low, covered area of terracing almost fills the area behind the goal. Set slightly to one side of this, a metal cage marks the area where the players emerge from the dressing rooms in that two-storey building behind this end of the ground. We saw various Eastbourne players disappearing down the caged tunnel to the dressing rooms before the match and they were accompanied by someone dressed as 'Stewie' from Family Guy! It turned out that the Eastbourne players were holding their Christmas party after the match and a certain Danny Brown - late of this Parish - was the man in the costume.



The access to the dressing rooms is not the only way in which this part of the ground interacts with that two-storey building. The roof over the terrace here is flat and surprisingly wide - well, surprisingly until you realise that it is also the floor of corporate hospitality areas on the upper storey the windows of which peep out over the roof of the terrace.

Continuing around the ground, after a red metal gate in the corner, a short stretch of uncovered terrace runs to a point about level with midway inside the main entrance end of the pitch where it meets the end of the main stand.

The only area of seating in the ground, eight rows of comfortable red and blue flip-up seats continue to a point about level with the edge of the penalty area at the other end of the ground. The low, red brick wall that runs along the front of this stand is punctuated at regular intervals to allow access from a paved area at the front.

The final stretch along this side of the ground consists of a small section of covered terrace that, as though just getting the hang of things and not wanting to stop when it reaches the end, turns the corner and continues behind the goal and back along the remaining side of the ground until it reaches a point where it faces the start of the main stand. The low roof and metal back wall sit atop red bricks that match the front of the



main stand. These give this part of the ground a very pleasing air of continuity.

A small copse of Cordylines and a confectionary stall combine to place a full stop firmly at the end of the terrace, and we complete our tour of the ground beside the pea green walls of a Nissen hut. In front of this, the red numbers on an electronic scoreboard shine brightly, illuminating the point at which we entered the ground.

**United Fans:** They seemed to be there in smaller numbers than last season, perhaps due to the time of year and the novelty of it being a new ground to visit having worn off, but they were in good form with banter and songs. They unfurled a number of flags and banners of varying sizes before the match, including a large black and amber flag on an even bigger stick. Unfortunately, the combination of long stick and low roof meant a hasty retrieval was required after some over-enthusiastic waving led to the flag becoming detached and stuck on the advertising hoardings that hang from the front of the roof.

**View from Away End:** Although the match was unsegregated, most U's fans kept to the end of the ground opposite the main entrance. Here the terrace steps weren't particularly high, but there was plenty of room in which to move around and - perhaps even more importantly - reasonable cover from the inclement

elements.

Looking out from main stand and, for that matter, the end occupied by the majority of United fans, you could see the weather closing in over the hills above the town. And while it was dramatic to watch the brooding black clouds smother the hills in a swathe of rain as they headed in our direction, it was not as dramatic as the air display from the murmuration of starlings that swooped and swirled in intricate patterns as they came in to roost behind the ground.

**Police/Stewards:** There were no police to be seen and very few stewards present due to unavailability. Those who were about couldn't have been more helpful. This was particularly the case with the Head Steward who, when he saw me unpacking assorted broadcasting paraphernalia from the back of the car, made a point of making sure I knew where I needed to go to get my ticket. Having discovered that not being able to get into the ground until 1.30pm was not the ideal match preparation, he was only too happy to arrange for me to get in immediately.

**Programme:** No price on the front and no page numbers either, but you got 48 photocopied pages for your £2.50. Adverts were virtually on alternate pages, but the remaining pages contained some interesting reading, including a little bit about the City of Cambridge itself.

**Food/Drink:** Burger and chips (£4.20) went down well without being spectacular, while tea made up in strength what it lacked in warmth.

**State of Toilets:** Basic facilities were available at one end of the seated area and just inside the main entrance.

**And Another Thing:** With the incessant rain starting to form puddles on the pitch, many thought the game was going to be abandoned with 15 minutes to go. Eventually, it became clear that the stoppage was due to an injury to the referee, which came as a relief to many - although, obviously not the referee. Pleasant as our visit to Eastbourne had been, the prospect of a Tuesday night trip in the middle of February was not an edifying thought!

## Afterwards

**The Journey Home:** Wet! Constant, heavy rain for the duration of the journey home threatened to make Noah's of mode of transport an appropriate option.

**Mileage:** 270.3 miles

**Total Distance for Season:** 2,168.9 miles

**Mark Johnson, with additional reporting by David Gray, Paul Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Gordon McMillan and Jon Claire.**



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# HERE & THERE

HENRY MILWARD LOOKS FORWARD TO OUR NEXT TWO GAMES

## OXFORD UNITED

R Costings Abbey Stadium,  
 Friday 18th December, 7.45pm

Only a points deduction deprived Oxford of a play-off place last season and they have carried that momentum into 2009/10.

Their campaign began with an 11 match unbeaten run, which was only ended at Field Mill in late September and since then Chris Wilder's men have fallen to just one further defeat. Sitting top and with a cushion over Stevenage Borough in second, it's easy to draw parallels with 2006/7 when United blew their early-season lead before eventually being usurped by Dagenham.

But this time, Wilder would surely assure doubters, things are different. The boss is an experienced non-league head - having led Halifax to the play-offs before arriving at the Kassam in 2008. And his side includes players well-versed with the demands of the division. Top scorer James Constable, formerly of Kidderminster, is the division's leading marksman with 17 goals, while Mark Creighton, another former Harriers man, has been a near-ever present in the heart of a back line which has kept 12 clean sheets in the league.

Elsewhere, the side is littered with savvy Conference faces. Peterborough loanee Alfie Potter, who was with Kettering last term, is a perennial threat from midfield alongside Simon Clist, a summer recruit from Forest Green. Meanwhile forwards Francis Green and Onome Sodje have arrived on loan from Kettering and Barnsley respectively in the last few weeks.

Friday's encounter will be the seventh between the clubs in non-league. The six so far have brought two wins, two defeats and two losses apiece, while five of those six have been evening games.



## STEVENAGE BOROUGH

R Costings Abbey Stadium,  
 Saturday 26th December, 3.00pm

It's been over seven months since Stevenage last visited the Abbey for that unforgettable play-off semi-final but Borough haven't looked back since and currently sit in second place, gnashing at Oxford's heels.

While other ambitious clubs have seen fortunes fluctuate during the past few campaigns, the Hertfordshire outfit have been top-eight constants. This term Graham Westley has retained the bulk of his squad and that constancy has borne fruit. But most impressive has been Borough's success without Steve Morison.

The prolific striker, now with Millwall, was replaced by Salisbury's Charlie Griffin, who has contributed nine strikes. And while Griffin is a focal point for attacks, goals have come from all sources. Scott Laird, Mark Roberts and Jon Ashton have all chipped in, as has the familiar figure of Lee Boylan, who has four.

Roberts and Ashton have also been crucial at the other end, in maintaining the division's best defence. Borough have kept four clean sheets in their last five league outings, with goalkeeper Chris Day and club stalwart Ronnie Henry crucial during this run.

The only blot on that impressive copy book came on December 1st as Stevenage slipped to their second league defeat of the season at Ebbsfleet.

Along with Boylan, former U's Mark Albrighton and David Bridges both remain at the Lamex Stadium, though none have three have appeared more than 10 times in 2009/10.

Throughout our Conference tenure Borough have proved to be tricky opponents, however, they have tended to falter in CB5: United have won four of the five Abbey games.



Ok Cambridge, your starter for ten ... which Impington-based outfit, who suspended their assistant manager earlier this season, have now suspended the main man too? Yes, Steve Fallon (above) has got himself more time for Christmas shopping pending a disciplinary hearing on the 18th as the Glassworld Stadium is plunged into chaos over Histon's wage bill. According to the BBC, Fallon, who recently celebrated ten years in charge of the villagers, was meant to look at reducing four players' wages but allegedly "chose to tell the whole team they were going to be released." Chairman Tony Roach said "We'll have the meeting next week and see if anything can be resolved." If Fallon has managed Histon for the last time, his final game won't be one to remember - a 0-0 draw with Altrincham that had as much quality as it had goals.

### Kandol snuffs out Poppies

As mentioned here recently, Leeds United have a tough time with lower-division sides and Kettering pushed them all the way in the FA Cup second-round replay at Elland Road. With the incentive of a trip to Mordor to play Man United at stake, the Poppies came from behind to force extra time. However, the BSP side's tiring legs finally allowed American Mike Grella to fire Leeds back in front and good old Tresor Kandol sealed the win a minute later. A second Grella goal and the inevitable Jermaine Beckford strike gave Leeds a scoreline that was harsh on

Lee Harper's well-organised Kettering.

The defeat came after Harper was criticised for resting key players for last Saturday's BSP home game against Salisbury, which saw the visitors come from behind to win 2-1. A defiant Harper said the chance of a lucrative trip to Man United justified his selection, but the loss saw the Poppies slip to fifth.

No such problems with League opposition for today's visitors. For the second successive round Luton beat a high-flying League Two side in a replay, following up their win over Rochdale by dumping Rotherham out of the Cup with a comfortable 3-0 win. The Hatters will now fancy their chances at Southampton.

### Leaders wilt in Furness

Also through to the third round are Barrow, who knocked out BSP leaders Oxford 3-1. Barrow have already drawn twice against Oxford this season and went into the game with just one defeat in 14 - at Oxford! Goals from Bolland (below), Logan and Goodfellow set Barrow on their way, with Constable claiming a last-minute consolation goal. The Conference side now face the trip from Barrow-in-Furness to Premiership Sunderland in January.



At least Oxford fared better last Saturday in the BSP, beating Ebbsfleet 4-2, though they'll probably be disappointed to have conceded two having taken a 2-0 lead

within ten minutes. The prolific Jamie Constable bagged a brace as did Alfie Potter, while Magno Vieira and Scott Ginty replied for troubled Fleet.



### Manager in ref gets it right shocker

Stevenage kept up the pressure with a 2-0 defeat of Kidderminster. Harriers complained vociferously about both goals but manager Mark Yates (above) was refreshingly honest: "The lads tell me he [Mitchell Cole] was offside but, on today's performance, I can guarantee that one of mine was keeping him onside". Whilst he might have defended the ref, Yates was less keen to praise Stevenage's performance: "We got beaten up, we got bullied and we got outworked and we didn't do all the horrible stuff."

Also going strongly are York, who chalked up another win, this time over Wrexham, 2-1. The result means York have equalled their club record of eight successive wins. Playing at the KitKat Stadium, in the home city of the Yorkie bar, the Minstermen will now be looking to see what comes after eight. Manager Martin Foyle was understandably ecstatic after the match, proclaiming "It's nice". In contrast, Forest Green secured their first win in eight, edging past Rushden 1-0. Centre half Mark Preece scored the only goal to leave Rovers five points adrift of safety.

### Stags staggering on

Mansfield's stuttering campaign suffered



another setback when they were held to a goalless draw by Grays. Their last five games have seen the Stags drop points against three of the bottom four sides, yet they're still clinging on to fourth place.

Meanwhile, two form sides clashed in the northwest, where Barrow, whose fine run is mentioned above, came up against Hayes & Yeading, with five wins and a draw from their previous six league outings. Perhaps not surprisingly, honours were even as the sides drew one apiece. Jason Walker put the home side ahead but Esmond James equalised late on to clinch a point.

### Chester clear debts but not deficit

Another play-off-chasing side dropping points were Luton. They may be disposing of League Two sides for fun in the Cup, but couldn't manage a goal in Saturday's clash with bottom side Chester. Fortunately for the Hatters, nor could Chester, though at least they ended their dismal run of five successive defeats despite having Kevin Roberts sent off for thinking he was playing rugby. Better news for Chester off the pitch: former owner Steven Vaughan, who's banned from being a company director, has lent his son, also Steven, enough money for him to pay off City's arrears. They're still in arrears in the BSP though, to the tune of minus three points.

Wimbledon's surge gained further momentum with victory over Gateshead.

Goals from Steven Gregory in the first half and Ricky Wellard in the second sealed the points, taking the Wombles up to sixth, just two points behind Kettering.

To the south coast, where Cambridge and Eastbourne fought out a 2-2 draw. The U's are making something of a speciality of coming from behind

to equalise these days. Last Saturday was no exception as they did it twice, Ben Austin and Brian Saah cancelling out efforts from Paul Armstrong and Liam Enver-Marum (left). Finally, Lewis Killeen's first-half goal was enough to seal the points for Crawley at Tamworth.

Neil Cole

## BLUE SQUARE NORTH























	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 SOUTHPORT	21	13	6	2	49	22	27	45
2 EASTWOOD TOWN	21	11	4	6	36	32	4	37
3 DROYLSDEN	19	10	5	4	46	24	22	35
4 STALYBRIDGE CELTIC	17	10	4	3	38	23	15	34
5 HINCKLEY UNITED	19	9	7	3	30	21	9	34
6 CORBY TOWN	19	10	4	5	36	32	4	34
7 FLEETWOOD TOWN	18	9	6	3	41	20	21	33
8 ALFRETON TOWN	20	9	4	7	38	28	10	31
9 ILKESTON TOWN	19	7	7	5	26	19	7	28
10 AFC TELFORD UTD	18	7	4	6	19	21	-2	26
11 WORKINGTON	19	6	6	7	16	20	-4	24
12 FARSLEY CELT. (-10)	20	10	2	8	36	34	2	22
13 BLYTH SPARTANS	18	5	6	7	29	29	0	21
14 GLOUCESTER CITY	20	6	3	11	26	31	-5	21
15 STAFFORD RANGERS	20	5	5	10	33	45	-12	20
16 NORTHWICH V. (-10)	17	8	5	4	25	21	4	19
17 SOLIHULL MOORS	21	5	4	12	20	32	-12	19
18 HYDE UNITED	19	4	6	9	18	35	-17	18
19 REDDITCH UNITED	20	5	3	12	26	46	-20	18
20 GAINSBOROUGH TR.	20	4	5	11	23	36	-13	17
21 VAUXHALL MOTORS	19	2	7	10	20	40	-20	13
22 HARROGATE TOWN	20	3	4	13	19	39	-20	13

## BLUE SQUARE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 NEWPORT COUNTY	19	13	5	1	34	9	25	44
2 DOVER ATHLETIC	21	11	4	6	37	26	11	37
3 WOKING	20	10	5	5	24	17	7	35
4 BRAINTREE TOWN	19	9	7	3	27	20	7	34
5 CHELMSFORD CITY	21	10	4	7	28	28	0	35
6 THURROCK	18	9	5	4	33	23	10	32
7 BASINGSTOKE TOWN	22	9	5	8	26	30	-4	32
8 EASTLEIGH	19	8	5	6	33	24	9	29
9 BROMLEY	18	8	5	5	30	27	3	29
10 BATH CITY	20	7	7	6	33	27	6	28
11 BISHOP'S STORTFORD	20	8	4	8	28	25	3	28
12 WELLING UNITED	21	8	4	9	25	27	-2	28
13 MAIDENHEAD UNITED	21	6	8	7	26	23	3	26
14 HAVANT & W'VILLE	18	6	8	4	23	20	3	26
15 ST ALBANS CITY	20	7	4	9	22	27	-5	25
16 STAINES TOWN	19	5	9	5	19	19	0	24
17 DORCHESTER TOWN	20	6	3	11	29	41	-12	21
18 HAMPTON & RICH.	18	5	5	8	25	27	-2	20
19 WORCESTER CITY	20	3	7	10	21	27	-6	16
20 WESTON-S-MARE	19	4	4	11	28	38	-10	16
21 LEWES	19	2	8	9	15	29	-14	14
22 WEYMOUTH	20	2	4	14	15	47	-32	10

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<b>MARTIN LING</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>PAUL CARDEN</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces: James Mills	<b>DANNY POTTER</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Fiona Robinson Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>DAN GLEESON</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Christopher Saunders Bootlaces:	<b>ANTHONY TONKIN</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:
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<b>BEN FARRELL</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>SAM IVES</b> Training Kit: Shorts: The Learning Centre Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>DARRYL COAKLEY</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>ADAM MARRIOTT</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>JORDAN PATRICK</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Andy Smart Bootlaces:
<b>JON CHALLINOR</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>COURTNEY PITT</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>LEE PHILLIPS</b> Training Kit: Chris Vessey and Dave Stacey Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>LAURIE WALKER</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:	<b>GREG REID</b> Training Kit: Shorts: Socks: Bootlaces:

# NOTES FOR U'S

## SELECT ELEVEN ANSWERS

This afternoon's answers from page 47 are as follows:

1. Algeria, Slovenia and the USA 2. Rob Earnshaw 3. Hearts and Hamilton Academicals 4. Turn professional 5. Mark Hughes 6. Manchester City and Leeds United 7. AFC Wimbledon and Cambridge United 8. Stevenage Borough 9. Liverpool 10. Salisbury (minus one point if you said Chester!) 11. Tony Pulis

How did you do?

-1: Who do you think you are, Chester City?

0-3: Oops, you're bunkered Tiger

4-7: Still in the rough

8-11: Hole in one!

## GOLDEN GAMBLE WINNER

The half time Golden Gamble draw against Chester City was won by Mrs S. Miller who was in the Main Stand and won a cheque for £253.40 thanks to buying ticket number 170879.

Golden Gamble tickets are available from sellers around the ground on all home match days. They cost just £1 a ticket and the proceeds are split equally between the winner and the club.

## BE THE BOSS COMPETITION

Congratulations to Barry Benton from Great Chesterford. He was the winner of the Be The Boss Competition run in the programme against Rushton. A DVD is already winging its way to him.

## SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

All safety announcements will be preceded by a 'bing-bong' sound from the tannoy. Please listen carefully to any subsequent information.

Supporters who enter the stadium on a match day should be aware that, prior to each fixture, the teams warmup on the playing surface whilst the stadium is filling with supporters. Football are used during this period and there is a low to moderate risk to injury to supporters from footballs at this time. The tannoy will announce the arrival of the players on the pitch for the warm-up period.

## UNITED IN ENDEAVOUR

Cambridge United Football Club has a proud history and tradition with its roots in the City and County. We are always striving to make the community feel part of the Football Club and we would, as a result, like to think that the R Costings Abbey Stadium is a safe and welcoming place for all football fans, whatever their race and colour.

For this reason everyone at this Football Club is committed to helping the campaign to Kick Racism out of Football. Racism of any sort will not be tolerated and we urge anyone hearing racist abuse to report it to a steward or write to Secretary Wayne

Purser at the Club. Anyone using racist abuse or threatening behaviour faces ejection from the R Costings Abbey Stadium and a ban from Cambridge United Football Club.

## GROUND REGULATIONS

Copies of the ground regulations and conditions of entry to the R Costings Abbey Stadium are posted around the ground. However, we respectfully draw the attention of all supporters to Section 7 of the regulations, which says:

The use of threatening behaviour, foul, abusive or racist language is strictly forbidden and will result in either arrest or ejection from the ground. The following are arrestable offences under the Football (Offences) Act 1991, as amended by the Football (Offences and Disorder) Act 1999:

- the throwing of any object with the ground without lawful authority or excuse
- the chanting of anything indecent or racist in nature
- the entry onto the playing area or any adjacent area to which spectators are not generally admitted without lawful authority or excuse.

Conviction could result in a Football Banning Order being made for all grounds in the country together with travelling abroad when England play. Supporters are also reminded that Section 9 of the regulations say that nobody may stand in any seated area whilst play is in progress. Persistent standing in seated areas is strictly forbidden and may result in ejection from the ground.

Supporters are reminded that in accordance with the Ground Regulations they should remain seated if in a seated section of the stadium. Guardians are asked to take responsibility for under 14s.

## TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Please could all supporters be aware of the pedestrian section of the Cambridge United Traffic Management Plan:

Pedestrians will be permitted to access the Stadium site via any of the access points subject to their being open and stewarded. Pedestrians must have the appropriate tickets for the area of the stadium entered.

Cambridge United Football Club has management boards displayed at all exits advising spectators to use the pedestrian crossing on Newmarket Road and Coldhams Lane when leaving the Stadium.

Signage is also displayed on the North Terrace exit roadway directing supporters to the pedestrian crossings.

## MAIN STAND EXIT GATES

Please could all supporters note that for Health and Safety reasons the Main Stand exit gates at the front of the stand, for exit along the perimeter track, will not be opened until all players and officials have left the field of play.

**CAMBRIDGE UNITED FC**  
R Costings Abbey Stadium  
Newmarket Road  
Cambridge CB5 8LN

## CLUB CONTACT

Main Number 01223 566500  
Main Fax 01223 729220  
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Away Travel 01223 729205  
Youth Development 01223 729204  
Football in the Community 01223 416238  
www.cambridgeunited.com

## CLUB OFFICIALS

Life President R.H. Smart  
Chairman Paul Barry  
Directors Jez George, Adrian Hanauer, Renford Sargent  
Fans' Elected Director Colin Proctor  
email: cfuinbox@btinternet.com

## Associate Directors

Brian Attmore  
Richard Smith

## General Manager

Robert Smith

## Club Secretary

Wayne Purser

## Assistant Secretary

Claire Osbourn

## Manager

Martin Ling

## Assistant Manager

Paul Carden

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Greg Reid MCSP SRP

## Director of Youth Football

Jez George

## Centre of Excellence Manager

Matt Walker

## Football Development Officer

Tom Pell

## Stadium Manager & Safety Officer

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## Website Manager

Andrea Thrussell

## Business Development Manager

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## PR & Marketing Executive

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## Girls Centre of Excellence Director

Franco Nacca

## Club Chaplain

Rev. Stuart Wood

## Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

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## Club Chiropractor

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## Medical Officer

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## PUBLISHING

Design: Adam Taylor & Mark Johnson

Floor 2, Branwells Mill

68 Market Jew Street, Penzance

Cornwall, TR18 2LQ

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KEY: SUB 1 SUB 2 SUB 3 SUB 4 SUB 5  
 SCORER: 1 PENALTY: P

### FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES 09/10

PLAYERS	LGE	FAC	FAT	TOTAL
MARK BEESLEY	5+9	0	0	5+9
LUKE BERRY	0	0	0	0
PAUL CARDEN	23	2	0	25
JON CHALLINOR	0+1	0+1	0	0+2
DARRYL COAKLEY	7	0	0	7
JOSH COULSON	5	0	0	5
DANNY CROW	16+5	3	0	19+5
BEN FARRELL	0	0	0	0
DAN GLEESON	19	1	0	20
WAYNE HATSWELL	22	3	0	25
CHRIS HOLROYD	22+1	3	0	25+1
BLAINE HUDSON	0	0	0	0
SAM IVES	1+16	1	0	2+16
ADAM MARRIOTT	0+1	0+3	0	0+4
RORY MCAULEY	3+4	3	0	6+4
ANDY PARKINSON	15+1	0+1	0	15+2
JORDAN PATRICK	0+1	0	0	0+1
LEE PHILLIPS	3+12	0+2	0	3+14
COURTNEY PITT	9+5	3	0	12+5
DANNY POTTER	23	3	0	26
JAI REASON	22+1	2	0	24+1
BRIAN SAAH	19	3	0	22
ANTHONY TONKIN	16+1	3	0	19+1
LAURIE WALKER	0	0	0	0
ROBBIE WILLMOTT	22	3	0	25

### FIRST TEAM GOALS 09/10

PLAYERS	LGE	FAC	FAT	TOTAL
CHRIS HOLROYD	14	1	0	15
DANNY CROW	6	0	0	6
WAYNE HATSWELL	3	1	0	4
ROBBIE WILLMOTT	3	1	0	4
COURTNEY PITT	2	1	0	3
JAI REASON	2	1	0	3
MARK BEESLEY	2	0	0	2
SAM IVES	2	0	0	2
BRIAN SAAH	2	0	0	2
PAUL CARDEN	1	0	0	1
ANDY PARKINSON	1	0	0	1
ADAM MARRIOTT	0	1	0	1
RORY MCAULEY	0	1	0	1
ANTHONY TONKIN	0	1	0	1
OWN GOALS	1	0	0	1

DATE	H/A	OPPONENTS	KO/RES	ATT	AWAY	PTS	POS	GK	PLAYER 2	PLAYER 3	PLAYER 4	PLAYER 5	PLAYER 6	PLAYER 7	PLAYER 8	PLAYER 9	PLAYER 10	PLAYER 11	SUB 1	SUB 2	SUB 3	SUB 4	SUB 5		
<b>AUGUST</b>																									
SATURDAY, 08	H	BARROW	L0-2	2,990	195	0	19	Potter	Gleeson	Coulson	Hatswell	Coakley	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Beesley	Holroyd	Pitt	Ives	Patrick	McAuley	Walker		
Tuesday, 11	A	Ebbsfleet United	W3-1	1,523	498	3	9	Potter	Gleeson	Coulson	Hatswell	Coakley	Parkinson	Reason <sup>1</sup>	Carden	Willmott	Beesley	Holroyd <sup>2</sup>	Ives	McAuley	Patrick	Pitt	Walker		
Saturday, 15	A	Chester City	W4-2	1,757	304	6	4	Potter	Gleeson	Coulson	Hatswell	Coakley	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott <sup>1</sup>	Beesley	Holroyd <sup>3 (1P)</sup>	Crow	Ives	McAuley	Pitt	Walker		
TUESDAY, 18	H	CRAWLEY TOWN	L0-1	2,733	59	6	10	Potter	Gleeson	Coulson	Hatswell	Coakley	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Beesley	Holroyd	Pitt	Crow	Tonkin	McAuley	Ives		
Saturday, 22	A	Tamworth	D0-0	1,316	402	7	10	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Ives	Beesley	Coulson	Pitt	Walker		
SATURDAY, 29	H	GATESHEAD	W3-0	2,417	40	10	6	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson <sup>1</sup>	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd <sup>2 (1P)</sup>	Beesley	Ives	Coulson	Pitt	Walker		
Monday, 31	A	Rushden & Diamonds	D1-1	2,344	1,088	11	8	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell <sup>1</sup>	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Ives	Beesley	Coulson	Pitt	McAuley		
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>																									
SATURDAY, 06	H	FOREST GREEN ROVERS	W7-0	2,646	39	14	5	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow <sup>2 (1P)</sup>	Holroyd <sup>2</sup>	Ives <sup>2</sup>	Phillips	Beesley <sup>1</sup>	Pitt	Coulson		
TUESDAY, 08	H	ALTRINCHAM	D0-0	2,749	41	15	6	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Ives	Phillips	Beesley	Pitt	Coulson		
Saturday, 12	A	AFC Wimbledon	D0-0	4,128	682	16	8	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Phillips	Ives	Beesley	Pitt	Coulson		
SATURDAY, 19	H	WREXHAM	W2-0	2,823	231	19	4	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell <sup>1</sup>	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott <sup>1</sup>	Crow	Holroyd	Beesley	Pitt	Ives	Phillips	Coulson		
Tuesday, 22	A	York City	D2-2	2,321	234	20	5	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason <sup>1</sup>	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Pitt	Phillips	Beesley <sup>1</sup>	Ives	Coulson		
SATURDAY, 26	H	LUTON TOWN	L3-4	4,870	1,728	20	9	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt <sup>1</sup>	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Beesley	Holroyd <sup>2 (1P)</sup>	Crow	Phillips	Ives	Parkinson	Coulson		
Tuesday, 29	A	Grays Athletic	L0-2	976	482	20	12	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Phillips	Holroyd	Crow	Ives	Beesley	Parkinson	Coulson		
<b>OCTOBER</b>																									
Sunday, 04	A	Histon	D1-1	2,371	1,168	21	12	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd <sup>1</sup>	Phillips	Ives	Beesley	Parkinson	Coulson		
SATURDAY, 10	H	EBBSFLEET UNITED	W4-0	3,668	83	24	8	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt <sup>1</sup>	Reason	Carden	Willmott <sup>1</sup>	Crow <sup>1</sup>	Holroyd <sup>1P</sup>	Phillips	Parkinson	Ives	Walker	Coulson		
Saturday, 17	A	Hayes & Yeading United	L0-3	744	507	24	10	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Ives	Phillips	Challinor	Walker	Coulson		
Sunday, 25	A	Lincoln United (FAC QR4)	W3-1	837	436			Potter	McAuley <sup>1</sup>	Saah	Hatswell <sup>1</sup>	Tonkin	Pitt	Reason	Carden	Willmott <sup>1</sup>	Crow	Holroyd	Parkinson	Phillips	Marriott	Challinor	Ives	Coulson	Walker
SATURDAY, 31	H	KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS	W2-0	3,508	141	27	8	Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell <sup>1</sup>	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd <sup>1</sup>	Phillips	Ives	McAuley	Patrick	Challinor		
<b>NOVEMBER</b>																									
SATURDAY, 07	H	ILKESTON TOWN (FAC 1)	W4-0	2,395	331			Potter	McAuley	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt <sup>1</sup>	Reason <sup>1</sup>	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd <sup>1</sup>	Challinor	Phillips	Marriott <sup>1</sup>	Patrick	Ives	Coulson	Walker
SATURDAY, 14	H	KETTERING TOWN	L0-2	3,088	451	27	9	Potter	McAuley	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Pitt	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Crow	Holroyd	Challinor	Phillips	Ives	Parkinson	Coulson		
Saturday, 21	A	Luton Town	D2-2	7,458	711	28	9	Potter	McAuley	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin	Parkinson	Reason	Carden	Willmott	Phillips	Holroyd	Pitt	Crow <sup>2 (1P)</sup>	Ives	Walker	Coulson		
TUESDAY, 24	H	RUSHDEN & DIAMONDS	D2-2	2,612	253	29	11	Potter	Gleeson	Saah <sup>1</sup>	Hatswell	Coakley	Parkinson	Reason	Carden <sup>1</sup>	Pitt	Crow	Holroyd	Phillips	McAuley	Ives	Walker	Marriott		
SATURDAY, 28	H	YORK CITY (FAC 2)	L1-2	3,055	799			Potter	Gleeson	Saah	Hatswell	Tonkin <sup>1</sup>	Willmott	Ives	McAuley	Pitt	Crow	Holroyd	Marriott	Patrick	Coakley	Parkinson	Farrell	Coulson	Walker
<b>DECEMBER</b>																									
TUESDAY, 01	H	CHESTER CITY	W1-0	2,239	43	32	10	Potter	McAuley	Saah	Coulson	Coakley	Willmott	Reason	Carden	Pitt	Crow <sup>1</sup>	Holroyd	Ives	Phillips	Marriott	Parkinson	Walker		
Saturday, 05	A	Eastbourne Borough	D2-2	1,217	250 (est)	33	10	Potter	McAuley	Saah <sup>1</sup>	Hatswell	Coakley	Willmott	Ives	Carden	Pitt	Crow	Phillips	Reason	Holroyd	Beesley	Parkinson	Coulson		
Saturday, 12	H	LUTON TOWN (FAT 1)	12:30																						
FRIDAY, 18	H	OXFORD UNITED	19:45																						
SATURDAY, 26	H	STEVENAGE BOROUGH	15:00																						
Monday 28	A	Mansfield Town	15:00																						
<b>JANUARY</b>																									
Friday, 01	A	Stevenage Borough	15:00																						
SATURDAY, 16	H	EASTBOURNE BOROUGH	15:00																						
Tuesday, 19	A	Kettering Town	19:45																						
SATURDAY, 23	H	YORK CITY	15:00																						
Tuesday, 26	A	Oxford United	19:45																						
Saturday, 30	A	Kidderminster Harriers	15:00																						
<b>FEBRUARY</b>																									
Saturday, 06	A	Crawley Town	15:00																						
SATURDAY, 13	H	AFC WIMBLEDON	15:00																						
Saturday, 20	A	Forest Green Rovers	15:00																						
SATURDAY, 27	H	TAMWORTH	15:00																						
<b>MARCH</b>																									
Saturday, 06	A	Barrow	15:00																						
SATURDAY, 13	H	HISTON	15:00																						
TUESDAY, 16	H	SALISBURY CITY	19:45																						
Saturday, 20	A	Wrexham	15:00																						
SATURDAY, 27	H	GRAYS ATHLETIC	15:00																						
<b>APRIL</b>																									
Saturday, 03	A	Gateshead	15:00																						
MONDAY, 05	H	MANSFIELD TOWN	15:00																						
Saturday, 10	A	Salisbury City	15:00																						
SATURDAY, 17	H	HAYES & YEADING UNITED	15:00																						
Saturday, 24	A	Altrincham	15:00																						

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# THE LAST WORD

FROM THE OFFICES OF CAMBRIDGE UNITED

## WAYNE PURSER

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to the R Costings Abbey Stadium for today's FA Carlsberg Trophy tie against fellow Blue Square Premier opponents Luton Town. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the players, staff, officials and supporters of our visitors who have made the journey today, although there is a sense of 'good to see you again' as we meet for the third time in as many months.

In my last programme notes I mentioned that the majority of my recent time spent had been involved around cup fixtures. Unfortunately as I write, today sees our involvement in the last remaining cup competition.

Our FA Cup defeat to York City coupled with CRC losing here last weekend in the FA Vase has seen us eliminated from competitions that our performances on the day warranted further progression in. Hopefully we can reproduce a performance today similar to that shown against York and reap the result that those performances deserve.

Over the last few weeks it has been disappointing to read complaints via letters, emails and Internet forums in relation to our supporters displeasure over certain issues. These issues range from the behaviour and language of both home and visiting supporters to those surrounding various ticketing policies in place. Whilst we try and answer those letters and address any issues that supporters may have, we will never please everybody.

With this in mind it is always nice to receive comments such as those that follow. Given the title of this column, the last word today is given by Rushden & Diamonds supporter Richard Butler.

Hi,

Having attended the Cambridge v Rushden game last night, I just wanted to say how impressed I was with the set up at Cambridge and that all the staff are a credit to the club. Being an exiled Diamond living in Suffolk, Cambridge United away is like a home game for me. Being invited into the Cambridge Supporters Club before the game by a Cambridge diehard, I did have a slight feeling of trepidation of what sort of reception "one of the enemy might get". However these thoughts were soon swept away as the Cambridge fans I sat with and the bar attendants couldn't have been nicer and I had a very enjoyable hour supping some nice beer and swapping stories about our clubs. In a lot of ways our clubs are similar and it is nice to go to games where there is a family- everyone knows each other- atmosphere around the place.

Going into the ground was a similar story with the gate attendants, security and food sellers all courteous and friendly.



The game itself, despite the wind causing a few problems, was most enjoyable and although disappointed letting a 2 goal lead slip, the final score line was a fair result after a most enjoyable evening. Hope to see Cambridge up there with Rushden in the play offs come the end of the season as another trip to the Abbey wouldn't go amiss. Once again, many thanks to all the staff at your club for a job well done and good luck for the rest of the season.

Best wishes

Richard Butler (a Newmarket Diamond)

With those compliments received and as one SKY TV pundit may put it, take a bow CUFC staff and supporters, take a bow!

Enjoy the game.

Wayne

# CHRISTMAS OPENING


Cambridge United Football Club Offices and Abbey Stadium Club Shop  
Christmas Opening Hours

Please note the following opening hours will be applicable over the festive period:


Monday, 21 December	Normal opening hours (9am-5pm Office, 10am-4pm Shop)
Tuesday 22 December	10am-1pm Office, 10am-4pm Shop
Wednesday 23 December	10am-1pm Office 10am-4pm Shop
Thursday 24 December	Closed
Friday 25 December	Closed
Saturday 26 December	10.30am-3pm
Monday 28 December	Closed
Tuesday 29 December	10am-1pm
Wednesday 30 December	10am-1pm
Thursday 31 December	Closed
Friday 1 January	Closed
Saturday 2 January	Closed
Monday 4 January	Closed
Tuesday 5 January	Normal opening hours (9am-5pm Office, 10am-4pm Shop)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Shop opening hours detailed above relates to the Club Shop at the R Costings Abbey Stadium. Opening hours of the shop in the City Centre are in accordance with the Grafton Centre.



## Carols at The Abbey







### Cambridge United's Carol Service

**Monday 21st December**  
R Costings Abbey Stadium at 7.00pm *all welcome*


Carols led by the Salvation Army Band  
Guest Speaker

For more details contact Stuart Wood - 01223 292454 / 07770 792 371  
*Bucket collection to support*  
BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Trustline Appeal and The Salvation Army  
Refreshments available in the Harris Suite afterwards

sponsored by

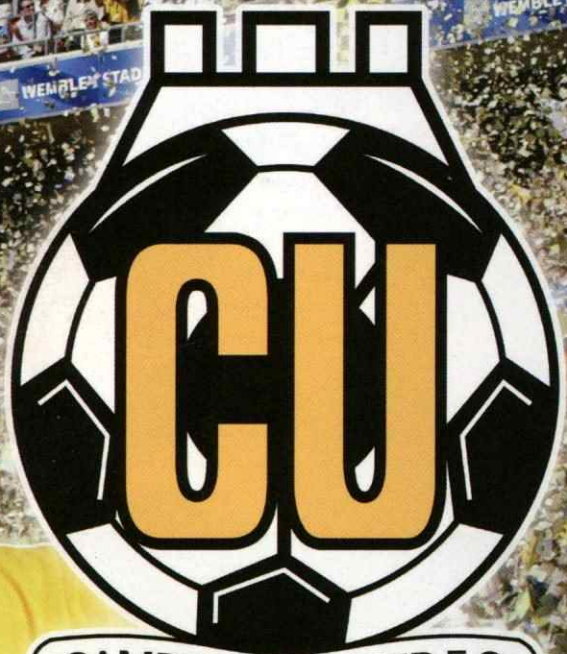
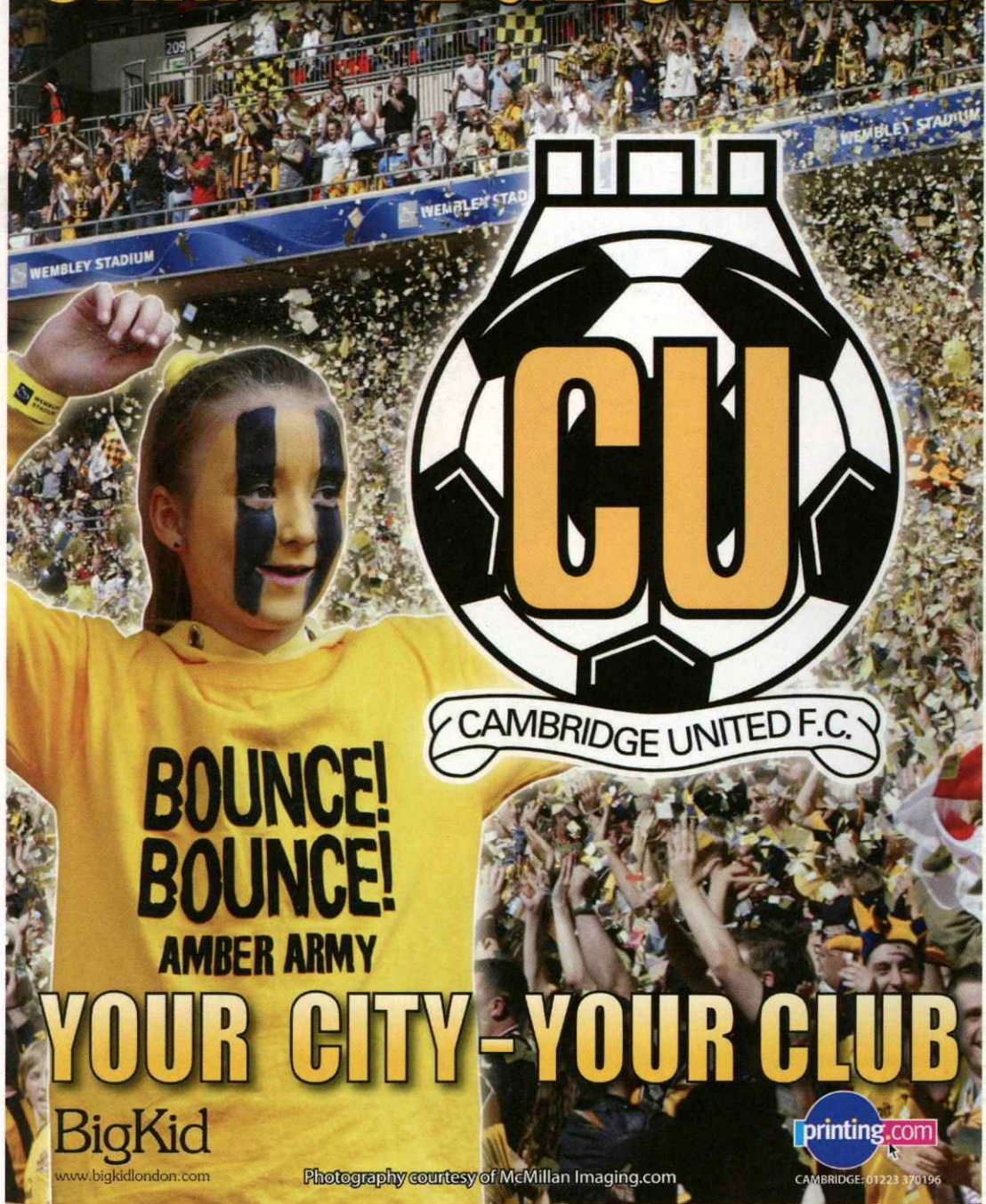
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# CAMBRIDGE UNITED



CAMBRIDGE UNITED F.C.

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