

HIT THE BAR!



October 2025

£1



FIXTURES 25/26

OCTOBER

18 – Forest Green Rovers (H)

25 – Yeovil Town (A)

NOVEMBER

1 – Reading (A) FA Cup

4 – FC Halifax Town (H)

8 – Southend United (A)

15 – Eastleigh (H)

22 – Boston United (A)

29 – Tamworth (H)

DECEMBER

6 – Woking (H)

20 – Boreham Wood (A)

26 – Gateshead (A)

30 – Morecambe (H)

JANUARY

3 – Wealdstone (H)

17 – Solihull Moors (A)

21 – York City (H)

24 – Aldershot Town (A)

31 – Altrincham (H)

FEBRUARY

7 – Rochdale (A)

10 – Scunthorpe United (H)

14 – Forest Green Rovers (A)

21 – Yeovil Town (H)

25 – Hartlepool United (A)

28 – Eastleigh (A)

MARCH

7 – Southend United (H)

14 – Tamworth (A)

21 – Boston United (H)

24 – FC Halifax Town (A)

28 – Braintree Town (A)

APRIL

3 – Gateshead (H)

6 – Morecambe (A)

11 – Sutton United (H)

18 – Truro City (A)

25 – Brackley Town (H)

The London Branch owns 2 season tickets for the Paddock terrace at Brunton Park. As a member, each ticket is available to you for a cost of just £10 - compared to £20 in advance and £24 on the day.

To use a ticket/s, contact seasontickets@cusclb.com 2 weeks in advance. Preference will be given to those who haven't used them ever before, or in the current season.

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EDITORS BLEAT



Welcome to HTB! 338 and welcome to Chris Conn-Clarke, who made an immediate impact on Saturday, not only with two well-taken goals but also with his fitness and skill levels. It's a rare thing for a Carlisle side to have two 'match winners' in him and Linney, at the same time. As I indicated on the cover of HTB! 337 and Nick Dawson tells us on page 13, the key this season is winning games and getting three points—a run of draws are as bad as a run of defeats as far as the target of grabbing top spot and promotion is concerned.

And so to the magic of the FA Cup and the tie we all wanted, Reading away. A small crowd in an empty, soulless modern stadium in a business park really captures what the FA Cup is all about. Perhaps their league position will mean they rest key players and our FA cup XI can bang in more goals (and avoid a post-half time slumber)? That said, it's a 'no pressure' tie as Reading aren't really giants and we've never been much of a giant killer, so no-one else is going to notice the result.

I hope you are enjoying the ever improving content on our various social media channels and on the branch website. It's all down to a lot of hard work by Anna Jensen, Andy Hall and Graeme Harker. At some point soon we'll be asking for your feedback on what we are doing and which media work best for you. It's also been good to see improvements to the media output from Carlisle United—the Chris Conn-Clarke signing video was particularly slick. I guess all these things are easier with a team near the top of the league than at the other end.

HTB! 339 will be pre-Xmas, perhaps anticipating an FA cup 3rd round tie?

UTB John B

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



After 14 games (30% of the season) we sit 3rd in the table averaging 2 points per game. This is a reasonable performance but well below what will be needed if we are to have a chance of the **one** automatic promotion place. Big defeats against York and Rochdale showed how much we need to improve if we are to compete at the top. Our next major test is against Forest Green at home a week on Saturday and it is hoped that every player performs to their best with mistakes at an absolute minimum.

The supporters have continued to excel – both home and away. There were 691 away to Scunthorpe despite the late

kick off, Storm Amy, roadworks, live TV coverage with Dazn, and the York and Rochdale results.

Dazn coverage has meant there are many more opportunities to watch games live when it is not possible to get there. Only 3pm games on a Saturday are blocked and even these are available on international weekends. **The London Branch has been showing games for southern fans in the Civil Service Club in Central London.** These are open to all Carlisle fans not just members and we look forward to seeing you there. **Please do email me to say you are coming so that we can make sure that the room booked is big enough.** chairman@cusclb.com

It is a good job that we have the CSC, as the kick off time changes have meant that many games such as Scunthorpe are now impossible to get back home by train.

We are continuing to ensure that there are good meeting places for every possible away game. Over 120 found Sutton Cricket Club a great venue. The only viable option at Wealdstone was the local Wetherspoons but we arranged for Tom and Patty Piatak to visit

and as usual they spoke to as many supporters as possible in a crowded bar full of Blues.

We are also continuing to arrange mascots for away games and providing every mascot with a goody bag. Mascots (and parents) are saying what a great experience it is.

Information is another area that the branch prides itself on. Members already get Hit The Bar! and the weekly Virtual Hit The Bar! but do check our website: www.carlislelondonbranch.org It is a mine of information. The away day info gives you everything you need to know when you travel while the news includes great updates over club and branch activities. Visit – you will be impressed. That also includes the other channels that the branch uses – Youtube, X, Instagram, bluesky, whatsapp channels etc. See the website for links.

A very sad occasion recently was the passing of Geoff Thomlinson. Geoff attended games home and away. At one point the only game he hadn't seen was Walsall when multiple accidents on the M6 meant the supporters buses were turned back. At the famous defeat of Roma in the Olympic Stadium in the Anglo Italian match in 1972, Geoff was there. He had driven down with 3 friends and went to Catanzaro too – one

of only 10 fans I gather. RIP Geoff - the most dedicated Carlisle United fan that I have heard of.



Amy Nixon (above) recently left Carlisle United. After a re-structuring at the club, Amy chose to leave her post as Media Officer. Over 14 years Amy has been a good friend to the branch, and we wish her well for the future.

Have a great season.

Up the blues

Dave

Chairman

KEEP THE FAITH



It seems hard to believe, but we're already almost a third of the way through the National League season.

We're doing ok in third place on just over 2 points per game which, if in the Football League, maintained to the end of the season would guarantee automatic promotion, invariably as champions. Not so in the National League though. In recent seasons, with only one team promoted automatically, teams finishing on 95 points would have to rely on the lottery of the play offs to gain promotion. At the moment there are two teams on target to achieve more points than us. Boreham

Wood is one of them who, if form is maintained could finish on 99 points. Rochdale are way out in front though, on target for a total of 115 points.

Unfortunately, we have played both Boreham Wood and Rochdale at home so there's less of an opportunity to claw things back. **It's Rochdale who are looking the most likely to finish ahead of the pack, not just because of the advantage they currently have but mainly because of the way they completely outplayed us at Brunton Park.** It was bad enough being thumped at York but Rochdale really showed us how to play football. **They look good value for money and demonstrated that the teams that succeed are the ones that play the best football by passing and moving the ball quickly.** The quality of their play created so many chances making 2 goals look like a poor return.

Perhaps the worst aspect of the two defeats was the reaction of some supporters who resorted to openly abusing our players and targeting certain individuals in particular. I don't know if they think this is going to help. It obviously isn't. By all means show your dissatisfaction with the results but it

shouldn't be allowed to sink to that level. It certainly reflects badly on those who do it.

Anyway, the team bounced back superbly with an excellent display in the win against Hartlepool and a superb win at Scunthorpe. Mark Hughes even acknowledged that his team selections may have been partly responsible for the two recent failures. It's something that's concerned me about his methods since the team selection at home to Solihull Moors when he played a mid-field of holding players with little creativity and dropped Harper for Murray as well. There were 5 changes from the team that won on the opening day two games earlier. The Head Coach's explanation was that he felt he had to give more of the squad an opportunity (fair enough, but 5 changes?) and that they had a lot of big players that we had to counter. I'm not so sure about that one - I'd let the opposition worry about us. Anyway, I hope 'tinker man' Hughes, after his admission of selection mistakes, will see the value of a settled team playing well with the occasional change to improve it.

Whilst on the subject of occasional improvements, things are looking even better with the news, as I write, that Chris Conn-Clarke is joining us, initially on loan. His record from his previous

spell in the National League speaks for itself with 23 goals from 46 matches. I'm sure he can improve the team.

I'm hoping he can play in the FA Cup at home to Boston. I don't want to see too many changes to the lineup for that one. **I know promotion out of National League is the big priority but I think it's important to go as far as we can in the FA Cup and keep the momentum going.**

I'd like to see us still battling on all fronts at the turn of the year. Let's hope Rochdale can hit a bad run at some point then we can still be in contention for the top spot in the league. I don't want to wish injuries on any players but Rochdale have a smaller squad than us so perhaps they'll be more impacted by injuries this winter. They're playing Scunthorpe soon!



INFORMATION POINT

Email: content@cusclb.com with your contributions for our media

- ⇒ **Hit The Bar! Fanzine** – 5-6 times per season 40-60 pages. Delivered electronically but you can collect a free copy at games or pay £5 (£15 overseas) to have it posted.
- ⇒ **Weekly Virtual Hit The Bar! newsletter** – keeps you up to date with what is going on at the club and with the branch. Every Friday morning.
- ⇒ **Website** – www.carlislelondonbranch.org Re-vamped with everything from latest news to away day meeting places and mascots.
- ⇒ **X (Twitter)** - [@cusclbontour](https://twitter.com/cusclbontour). Lots of info and can also be used to ask questions directly of the branch.
- ⇒ **Whatsapp Groups (email chairman@cusclb.com to be added to those you want to join giving your mobile number).**
 - **LB Carlisle Football ONLY** – lots of views and arguments about our team
 - **LB General Crack** – anything and everything discussion between members as long as it is not abusive, racist or any other ..ist.
 - **CUSCLB Matchday Travel** – details of match travel from London.
 - **CUSCLB Carlisle Social** – Cumbrian based members social group organising regular social events in Carlisle.
 - **CUFC Home and Away** – North West (Merseyside, Cheshire, Manchester) based match and social.
 - Other whatsapp groups are set up as needed e.g. annual summer trip group
 - **Instagram** – [@cusc_london_branch](https://www.instagram.com/cusc_london_branch)
 - **Facebook** – [@CUSC-London-Branch](https://www.facebook.com/CUSC-London-Branch)
 - **Youtube** – [@cusclb](https://www.youtube.com/@cusclb)
 - **Bluesky** - [@cusclondonbranch.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/cusclondonbranch.bsky.social)

Matchday Experience – (email tickets@cusclb.com – tick “interest in tickets” and “interest in travel” on your membermojo cusclb account)

Tickets for away games – Buy your tickets through the branch to avoid postage, 5% commission to the club, no queuing, meet up with mates.

Ticket deposit scheme – ring fenced deposits to enable tickets to be purchased easily through the branch.

Ticket priority for big games – **Rightly**, season ticket holders have priority for the big games and those with limited availability, but the London Branch are in the 2nd tranche before public sales.

Meeting places pre-match – Pubs that are safe for away fans, family friendly and good beer and okay food.

Meeting fellow fans – even if you arrive on your own, you will spend the day with fellow fans. Even the worst football is better with friends.

Travel- group rail and shared car travel – more fun and often saving money for younger adults (e.g. group rail is often available at 33% discount).

Events pre-match – occasional events pre-match e.g. club directors’ forum or visits, visit to nearby sights e.g. Football Museum.

TV Football together – watching Carlisle games on TV together in Central London for fixtures outside the blackout period of 3pm Saturday. Contact Dave Brown chairman@cusclb.com for details and to join. It is expected there will be 10 midweek games and 4 bank holiday games next season.

Events, Social and Sports (Social and Events – email Amanda Caddy so-cial@cusclb.com; Supporters **Football** email Chris Tembey football@cusclb.com)

Face to face events – Central London, Bristol, pre and post-match venues e.g. 50th anniversary with Piataks, Clibbens and ex-players, Jimmy Glass, Jabo Ibhore and John Halpin; Q&A with Simmo Bristol and London.

On-line events – Club management, officials, ex-players and high profile fans - Nigel Clibbens, Tom II and Alice, Jon Colman, Matt Jansen.

Social events – Mostly Central London - Quizzes (including with chasers Sean and the Sinnerman), Comedy, Theatre, Guided walks – Soho, Barbican, City of London, Pub Crawls, Pool and Darts evenings.

Sports – Supporters football –has included Jimmy Glass in the team and 3 generations of the same family on the pitch at the same time.

BRANCH SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING



Members John Notman (L) and Stan Cook (R) were down at Brunton Park recently having their picture taken with our sponsored player, Jack Ellis, as part of the Team Photo day. We first sponsored Jack a few years ago as a new professional and it is great to see how he is now an established first team

player. The sponsorship is £750 per season home and away.

Watch out for the branch logo on the Carlisle Ladies training gear this season. It will also be appearing on the Interview backboard after we agreed to up our regular sponsorship to £2,000 to provide the Ladies team with the support they needed. There will also be match reports, interviews and more coming.

At the last meeting we agreed to contribute £500 to the costs of the planned art centrepiece in the memorial garden at Brunton Park now that it has been extended. I am not sure how many members have been to the gar-



den when at Brunton Park, but it really is a wonderful and inspiring place and visited by so many people whose loved ones loved the club. The overall cost of the art will be £5000 with the club paying £3000 and supporters contributing £2000.

It was an easy decision to donate £100 to the “Walk for Wilksey” appeal that was looking to raise £1,000 to donate to the CUCST to provide support to mental health initiatives.

We are continuing to organise (member Anna and SLO Simon) the away mascots that deliver “a memory for life” and sponsoring the goody bag (Carlisle United drawstring bag and lots of goodies inside) that each mascot

receives. The mascots and their parents all report a fantastic experience – visit the branch website to see pics and comments www.carlislelondonbranch.org.

Some of the support that we have done in the past has been shown in actions recently – **we donated £1000 to the Trust’s Defib Appeal of £5000.** Those Defibs are now in place at Brunton Park, and we hope to god they are not needed, but thank god if they are.

Remember it is **your** money that we are spending supporting **our club** so feel free to tell us what you think about what we are supporting and share your ideas.



WILL 2025-26 END IN TEARS OF JOY, OR JUST TEARS?

Nick Dawson has been busy applying mathematical modelling tools to provide the answer to the key question; will we get promoted this season? His report models Carlisle United's projected finish in the 2025–26 National League season, based on their current (4/10/25) tally of **9 wins, 2 draws, and 3 losses from 14 games played**. Two Monte Carlo* simulations were run — one using exact win/draw/loss rates, and another using a conservative smoothed version. Each simulation consisted of 50,000 iterations of the remaining 32 matches to estimate the likely distribution of final point totals. **This tells us that:**

- Our mean final points total will be around **91–95**.
- Probability of finishing with 90 pts is **59–79%**.

Model	Mean	Median	P5	P25	P75	P95	Pr(≥90)	Pr(≥95)	Pr(≥100)
Empirical	95.3	95	83	90	100	107	79%	55%	29%
Smoothed	91.1	91	79	86	96	103	59%	33%	13%

- Probability of finishing with 95 pts is **33–55%**.
- Probability of finishing with 100 pts is **13–29%**.

In context of the past decade's champions (typically 90–100+ points required to win), Carlisle United are therefore currently projected as a strong **top-two contender** and a likely **promotion challenger** if current form is sustained.

So, if Carlisle sustain their current form (2.07 points per game), they are on pace for roughly 95 points, a tally sufficient for a title challenge in most recent seasons. Even with moderate regression, they remain highly likely to secure a playoff or top-three finish. So it's probably worth booking a hotel in London for the play-off weekend, if you hadn't done that already.

* Monte Carlo methods, or Monte Carlo experiments, are a broad class of computational algorithms that rely on repeated random sampling to obtain numerical results. The underlying concept is to use randomness to solve problems that might be deterministic in principle. The name comes from the Monte Carlo Casino in Monaco, where the primary developer of the method, mathematician Stanisław Ulam, was inspired by his uncle's gambling habits. Glad you asked?!

CUSCLB 40 CLUB WINNERS ENJOY THE TRURO MATCH

First Richard Perry and then Kevin McGeorge recount their experiences of CUFC Hospitality at the Truro match on 6 September.

Never did I expect to see the day when Carlisle were in the same League as Truro.

How times have changed! This was probably not the most exciting game to look forward to. The date was convenient though as by adding a couple of days to a week's break in The Lake district I was able to take up a Hospitality Package won through the CUSCLB 40 Club draws.

With the addition of the Hospitality Suites in the refurbished East Stand

there are now more options to choose from. I always favour the East Stand as that is the side of the ground I first watched games from in the late 1960's. Back in the day the East side was one large terrace known as The Scratching Shed. I chose the Kingmoor Park Cumbria Lounge and was pleased to be joined by Andrew Dobinson, my Niece's husband James and his match day pal Ben. James and Ben live in Carlisle and are regular attendees at Carlisle games.

The Hospitality Agenda was very similar to that previously enjoyed in Foxy's with food and drink served to the table, the chance to buy Golden Gamble Tickets and to enter a prediction competition. Matchday tickets are also included.

A Q&A session was held with Morgan Feeney and Jordan Jones. I always think this is perhaps a punishment for daring to get injured – "Go out there and speak to those lot".

We were pleased to have the opportunity to spend time talking to Simon Clarkson – clearly he is enjoying his role as The Supporter Liaison Officer.

The seats we were allocated in the East Stand provided a good view although we did have to avoid the barrier at head height just in front of us. This wasn't a problem though once we got used to a little ducking and stretching in order to





I must thank Simon Clarkson and Jasmine Dent for their help in arranging the Hospitality Booking not helped by my request to increase the number of people attending. In

follow play.

On taking our seats it was a pleasure to say hello to a relaxed John Nixon who was sat in the row behind.

As for the match, Luke Armstrong scored twice in the first 12 minutes at which point it looked like a 6-0 was on the cards. Carlisle were always in control and Regan Linney scored a wonder goal in the 60th minute with the game finishing 3-0.

Interestingly there is a tenuous link between Truro and Manchester United. One of the penalty takers for Grimsby in their recent League Cup victory over Man. Utd. - Jaze Kabia - signed for Grimsby after firing National League South side Truro City, to the title on the final day of last season. Apologies to the Man Utd. Supporter in our group for mentioning this yet again!

The day was one to remember with the excellent Match Day Hospitality on top of a 3-0 win for Carlisle. I thoroughly recommend taking up one of the Hospitality Packages if you have the chance.

particular, Jasmine was very patient in dealing with my string of emails.

Much discussion was had in the days leading up to the Truro match on the relocation of away fans to the Waterworks End. The Daily Express even carried an article on the day with the headline "880-mile trip for Truro fans and there's no roof on the away end". The piece included a large photo of the Waterworks End.

Slightly over the top as Carlisle Supporters have had their share of uncovered away ends. Some will remember getting soaked at Brighton's temporary home at Preston Park. Also several wet and windy days at Gillingham where we were located in the inappropriately named "Temporary Stand".

There was a nice touch at the end of the match when the Truro players went to the Waterworks End and shook hands with many of their 78 fans.

Richard Perry



3 Courses, 3 Goals, 3 Points.

A convincing home win vs Truro City and a meal at Foxy's. Who could ask for more? This wasn't our first meal at Foxy's, and certainly won't be our last. After a warm welcome, we were shown to our tables and had our food orders taken. Soon, we received our starters, butternut soup or mackerel, followed by some roasted gammon, and apple pie or profiteroles for afters. Clean plates all round. Washed down with a few pints, it was football time. An outstanding performance from in-form Luke Armstrong had us 2 up after 12 minutes, putting us in good spirits for our half time beer. After catching up on the scores from around the grounds, before we knew it we were back in the stands for the 2nd half. A solo run, followed by

a compelling finish by 'that man' Regan Linney sealed the deal, getting us ready for our full-time pie. Archie Davies picked up the man of the match award after a solid performance at the back, but the real winners were us 4 in Foxy's, leaving with smiles on our faces having watched a cracking game, and most importantly, full bellies. Thanks to all at the club for the service. A special mention goes out to the travelling Truro fans who we spoke to in the fan zone on the way out who thoroughly enjoyed their day, too, by all accounts. Respect to them for their dedication to the 870 mile round trip. We'll be seeing them in April for some pasties!

For a nice change, it was a good thing that had come in 3's. Long may it last. Up the Blues! **Kevin McGeorge.**

The 40 club funds CUSCLB projects. Every month prizes are:

- **Brunton Park hospitality tickets for two including match tickets**
- **£30 cash**
- **Carlisle United book or shirt**
- **Occasional other prizes like "Away Director Experience"**

For details and to join, email: 40club@cusclb.com

Brunton Park Diary

2025/26

Jul 22nd (Tue)

WIGAN YTH XI ? CUFC YTH XI 5 - YTH PS FRIENDLY

No match score given, all we know is that we went down there and gave the hosts a proper shoeing thanks to a Mason hat-trick plus goals from Penney and Wade.

Jul 23rd (Wed)

The West London Sport Newspaper reports that United are among clubs chasing 24-year-old QPR midfielder **Elijah Dixon-Bonner**, who has also recently on trial with Walsall. Dixon-Bonner was signed by QPR in October 2022 after youth spells with Liverpool and Arsenal, and has made 28 Championship appearances with the Londoners, mostly as a substitute. Despite earning a new contract in the summer of 2024, he made just three league appearances last season, all of them as a late substitute, and is seen as surplus to requirements.

Kadeem Harris uses his skills at evading opponents, to escape the lure of 5th tier football with United in favour of a move to regular play-off chokers Salford City on a one-year deal. The decision

has nothing to do the League Two side's deep pockets no siree, he likes the challenge of playing at home in front of one man and his dog instead of 7 or 8,000.

Ex-keeper **Shamal George** joins St Mirren on a season-long loan from Wycombe Wanderers.

Jul 25th (Fri)

Fresh from starring for the Clarets and helping them win promotion to the Premier League, academy graduate **James Trafford** will be between the sticks at Manchester City after Greysouthen's most famous escapee rejoins them in a deal worth a reported £27m which, with add-ons, will be a record fee for a British goalkeeper. The move is likely to have a financial benefit of around £100k to the Blues, through the terms of the Elite Player Performance Plan compensation structure.

Fresh from his release by the chimp chokers, Spennymoor Town take a punt on **Beer Machine** for the new season.

Jul 26th (Sat)

HARROGATE TOWN XI (0) 0 CUFC XI (2)

2 – PSF

United took advantage of their generally lacklustre hosts to make it a fairly comfortable three wins on the bounce, each game marked by standout man Linney scoring. Ellis was successfully trialled in midfield with Embleton in an advanced role behind our rejuvenated hairy Viking, who also netted with a predatory finish. **Tall 23 year-old Dutch midfielder Jed Abbey, who was top scorer for NLN side Alfreton last season, was given half an hour on the pitch as a trialist** with one wobbly moment for the ex-Wolves Academy man when his misplaced pass almost resulted in a breakaway goal.

United XI: Lewis, Thomas, Hayden, Williams (Davies 83), Murray (Harper 83), Ellis (Robson 83), Whelan (Abbey* 68), Embleton (Scott 83), Luamba (Ajiboye 83), Linney, Armstrong. Trialist*

Whispers on the Wigan Athletic forum report that they are preparing a £150k bid for Super **Gabe Breeze** while Romanian top-flight outfit FC Botoşani are rumoured to have made a surprise approach for **Terell Thomas**.

Jul 28th (Mon)

Media officer **Amy Nixon** announces

that she is leaving after being part of United's media department for 14 years.

Jul 30th (Wed)

CURZON ASHTON (1) 3 CUFC (1) 3

A decent examination for a mixed-strength United team with strong performances from Atkinson and Lowes, two of the youngsters starting to cause a buzz around fans with one eye to the future. Kelly and Mugabi finally managed some game time on the grass and Ajiboye enjoyed his trot out, driving in a fine first-half debut goal for the Blues before being pegged back. Trialist Abbey set up Scott to volley in a restored lead, United then falling behind with their foot well off the pedal before Davies fired in a late equaliser.

CUFC XI: Lewis, Davies, Harper, Atkinson, Mugabi (Porter 46), Lowes, Robson, Abbey*, Ajiboye, Scott, Kelly (O'Donoghue 46). Trialist*

There will be no Abbey (in the) National this season with the Curzon game marking the end of his United trial.

Aug 1st (Fri)

Rumours of Greenock Morton sniffing around **Jordan Jones** with reports of him training with the Scottish Championship club. Oh well, there goes the

chance of a bid.

Fellow double relegationists Luton Town sign ex-Blue **Jerry Yates** from Swansea City for what is understood to be a seven-figure fee.

Aug 2nd (Sat)

WORKINGTON AFC XI (1) 3 CUFC YTH XI (0) 2 - YTH PS FRIENDLY

The Jameaters fielded a strong side that included 7 ex-United academy players with another 2 on the bench. Amaru Smith lit up the game with an outstanding goal to equalise just after the break quickly followed up with O'Donoghue taking advantage of a keeper howler to fire into an open goal to put the blues 2-1 up. Along with Smith, Lowes and Atkinson once again stood out with the latter showing strong leadership throughout.

CHESTER CITY XI (0) 0 CUFC XI (0) 2 – PSF

An Embleton penalty and an own goal, both created by Linney, wrapped up a positive pre-season campaign. There were a couple of scares before United cruised into the distance including old boy Offy Zanzala fluffing a good chance before the interval. Having trained with the club during the week on the recommendation of head of recruitment Martin Foyle and following the high-profile

financial troubles down the coast, 24-year-old Morecombe FC midfielder Harvey Macadam puts in a solid performance as the club consider offering a deal.

CUFC XI: Breeze, Davies (Murray 68'), Harper (Williams 68'), Thomas, Hayden (Mugabi 45'), Whelan (Robson 58'), Linney, Luamba (Ajiboye 68'), Embleton (Scott 77'), Ellis, (Macadam*), Armstrong (Kelly 58')

Trialist*

19-year-old former youth player **Romeo Park** formally joins Edmo's Jameaters on a one-year deal after featuring in the recent game against the Blues.

Aug 5th (Tue)

Ex-Blues youth team captain **Tom White** and 'forward' **Hallam Hope** are the latest players to leave the cockle pickers, White joining newly promoted Boredom Wood FC and Hope going to National League North club Radcliffe.

Oldham-based Northern Premier League side Avro FC sign former striker **Anton Dudik** following a trial. Similarly released ex-youth player **James Murray** mints a deal with NPL side Matlock Town following a successful trial in their pre-season fixtures and **Mo Sagaf** is off again, this time joining Eastbourne Bor-

ough FC after leaving Boredom Wood FC in the summer.

Aug 7th (Thu)

Rather than wait for an Ipswich or Derby steal him for buttons, United act quickly and hand promising youth team defender **Hayden Atkinson** a two-year professional contract, doubling the working population of Cleator Moor in an instant.

Aug 8th (Fri)

More forward planning from the club with news that **Freddie O'Donoghue** scribbling a professional contract before joining Murphy's Queen of the South outfit on loan until January.

Another released academy graduate joins Dazza's Reds, this time it's 18-year-old right-back **Trent Chapman**, who had a loan spell with Carlisle City last season. Former youth teamer **Keelan Leslie** also rejoins them for a second spell.

Swansea City sign ex-stopper **Paul Farman**, probably as a third choice.

Aug 9th (Sat)

CHESTERFIELD YTH (0) 0 CUFC YTH (1) 2

Goals from Lambert & Smith secure an opening day win

WOKING (0) 0 CUFC (0) 2

Another dreadful start to the season. Complete silence from the travelling army. United missing for large periods of the first half and looking shaky throughout. Anyway, enough about DAZN's lamentable attempts to live stream the game.

A rare opening day away win (17 years of hurt etc.) achieved through two clinical finishes and everyone putting in a shift on a balmy afternoon.

The Blues looked a level higher throughout, the one wobble being when Breeze hauled down an advancing Woking player with the ref's decision probably a coin toss between being a free-kick and a penalty. The rejuvenated Viking's lovely, drilled finish across the keeper from Ellis' defence-splitting ball settled the Blues after a promising but scoreless first half marked by Linney's keen running down the left and Macadam having a debut headed goal wrongly ruled out for a foul directly initiated by a defender. In one of the smallest Venn Diagram co-relationships of all time, Robson was giving a rare bomb squad opportunity and 12 minutes later, duly obliged by curling in an excellent and rare free-kick over the wall and into the top corner to send the travelling Blue Army into a rapturous, bouncing sea of bodies.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 6, Ellis 7,

Harper 7, Hayden 7, Thomas 7, Macadam 6 (Robson 7), Whelan 7, Embleton 6 (Wearne 7), Ajiboye 6 (Davies), Linney 7 (Murray), **Armstrong 8** (Kelly 6).

Macadam, who made 36 appearances for Morecambe last season and was well-rated by their fans, becomes signing number eight on a one-year deal with an option of a further year.

Aug 10th (Sun)

Beechball is briefly back with CB taking charge of a PFA free agent XI that storms to a 4-1 win in their latest friendly against Everton's Under-21s. After not being picked up by Fleetwood after a trial, ex-winger **Liam McCarron** is training under the PFA scheme.

Aug 12th (Tue)

DONCASTER ROVS YTH (0) 1 CUFC YTH (1) 3 – YOUTH ALLIANCE CUP

A couple from Rigby and a strike from Bell starts the Youth Alliance Cup campaign with a win.

Aug 13th (Wed)

The Blues finish as narrow runners-up to Exeter in the 2024/25 Think! Fan Engagement Index based on dialogue, governance and transparency and across the top five divisions.

Abbott and Costello (aka Thirlwell), are

reunited as Greg is wisely firewalled away from player recruitment, instead joining Harrogate Town as a cog in their emerging talent and centre of excellence coaching team.

Aug 14th (Thu)

Fourth-choice striker **Cedwyn Scott** is reunited with former coaches Ian Watson and Carl Magnay as he signs for National League North big hitters South Shields for an undisclosed fee.



New pro **Hayden Atkinson** is the next to join the Jameaters, moving on a work experience loan for an initial month. He could be busy after they were humped 6-0 in their last outing.

Cumberland Building Society's **Tom Little** is appointed as CUFC's new head of marketing and media. The experienced Little also runs his own marketing, business and personal development consultancy.

Aug 15th (Fri)

18-year-old first year pro **Dan Hopper** moves out of his Cumbria comfort zone to join NLN side Darlington for a month, which could be useful experience.

Aug 16th (Sat)

CUFC YTH (1) 2 BURTON ALBION YTH (2) 2

Goals in each half from Seb Mason and Amaru Smith help the Blues recover from 2-0 down.

CUFC (0) 3 BOREHAM WOOD (1) 3

A see saw encounter ends in frustration after the Blues got their s*** together in the second period following the wily Norris' opener, only to toss away a 3-1 lead in the closing stages. Kelly's introduction for a lacklustre Ajiboye paid immediate dividends, slotting across the keeper for the equaliser and creating space for Linney to do his stuff with two excellent finishes in front of the Warwick. The twist came with Thomas and Hayden nodding off to allow Norris head in with 11 minutes left and then O'Connell likewise just five minutes

later, both of which should easily been prevented.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 5, Ellis 6, Harper 5, Thomas 4, Hayden 4, Whelan 5 (Robson 6), Macadam 5, Embleton 6, Ajiboye 5 (Kelly 7), **Linney 8** (Luamba), Armstrong 6 (Wearne).

Aug 19th (Tue)

CUFC (0) 1 SOLIHULL MOORS (1) 1

A misstep against a team that promotion rivals will likely sail past on most occasions in a side lacking width and creativity. The team selection was a head-scratcher starting with two holding midfielders and a defender in mid-field thinking Liverpool were turning up. Moving Armstrong out to the right didn't do him or the team any favours, new boy Murray looked like a rabbit in the headlights and Grant had a mare, laying on the pass for the visitor's breakaway goal, the two home debutants looking like a couple of bounce games short of first-team action. The positives were a promising debut at the back for the towering Mugabi, Luamba's pacy directness when he came on and the siege laid onto the Solihull goal once behind that arguably deserved more than Thomas' well-taken equaliser in front of the Warwick.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 6, Davies

7, Murray 5, Thomas 6, **Mugabi 7**, Ellis 6, Grant 5 (Wearne 6), Macadam 6, Linney 6, Kelly 6, Armstrong 5 (Luamba 6).

Jet-lagged 28-year-old ex-Blue **Sam Cosgrove** joins A-League side Auckland FC after an underwhelming spell with Barnsley. He'll need to keep his eye-mask and air pillow to hand, every away game bar one for the Black Knights involves a return flight to Oz.

Aug 20th (Wed)

Could **Jon Mellish** be returning to United from Wigan, the rumour mill has us and Barrow alerted to his availability? This comes after his previous gaffer Shaun Maloney, was bounced out of his seat by Ryan Lowe with the ex-PNE boss sending big Jon down to the under-21 training ground.

The exodus at Nobody-come down the coast continues with former skipper Danny Grainger leaving his assistant manager role.

Former shin-kicker **Liam Noble** ticks off another NE club by taking up an offer at Newcastle Blue Star following his departure from Hebburn Town. I'll give it until January.

Aug 21st (Thu)

Ex-left-sided defender and PFA camper

Ben Williams is among the influx signing for Please-come!! as the cockle pickers hastily look for available pros with a pair of boots. Williams' one goal for the Blues came against his new club in the EFL Trophy game down there.

Less than a month after joining Spennymoor Town, **Beer Machine** announces his heart is "no longer in it" and decides to hang up his boots.

Former Beech-era winger **Nathan Thomas** signs for Bishop Auckland FC.

Aug 22nd (Fri)

The Jameaters' hoovering up of past and present CUFC youngsters continues with recently released left-sided player **Aran Fitzpatrick** joining the Reds.

Aug 23rd (Sat)

BRADFORD CITY YTH 2 CUFC YTH 4

No match details given however the kindergarten Blues move to the top of the Youth Alliance North West Division after a comprehensive dismantling of the Bantams.

WEALDSTONE (0) 0 CUFC (1) 1

*"There once was a man called Luke
Who proved Woking away was no
fluke*

*The big man's super heading
Meant Sparky enjoyed his wedding*

While the Raider just wanted to puke”

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 7, Davies 7, Harper 7, Thomas 8, **Mugabi 8**, Ellis 7, Macadam 6, Wearne 6 (Whelan 7), Luamba 7 (Feeney 6), Linney 6 (Ajiboye 6), Armstrong 7 (Kelly).

figures. Wearne teed up Linney to curl home the first of three goals with the lead extended on the half an hour mark when the Viking’s cross was sliced into the onion bag by a defender. More chances came and went before Whelan was chopped down in the box with Lin-



Bevis gets the hugs at Wealdstone

Aug 24th (Sun)

Recent loan youngster **Dan Adu-Adjei** completes a permanent move from Bournemouth to top-division Croatian team Rijeka.

Aug 25th (Mon)

CUFC (2) 5 BRAINTREE TOWN (0) 0

Only the Blues profligacy and the fine efforts of visiting keeper Mason Terry kept the score from threatening double

ney scoring the penalty, who duly completed his hat-trick when heading home a Harper corner just after the hour. Feeney then headed back a corner to set up Ellis to put the final cherry on the cake.

CUFC Player Ratings**: Breeze 7.0, Davies 7.6, Harper 7.7, Thomas 7.7, Whelan 8.1, **Linney 9.4** (Ajiboye 6.9), Luamba 7.2 (Robson 6.7), Wearne 7.1 (Grant 6.7), Ellis 7.6, Mugabi 6.8 (Feeney 7.0), Armstrong 7.7 (Kelly 6.6)

Aug 26th (Tue)

No return for **big Jon** with MK Franchise FC taking him on a season-long loan from Wigan Athletic.

Aug 28th (Thu)

Ex-midfielder **Josh Vela** signs a part-time deal with NPL side Warrington Town after a spell training with the club while former forward **Jack Stretton** is off to LOI side Drogheda United until the end of the season.

Aug 30th (Sat)

SUTTON UTD (0) 2 CUFC (0) 1

A long way to go for nothing and a strangely flat performance punished by a side that looked like it wanted it more typified by ex-Blue Jayden Harris playing like a man with a point to prove. Both goals came from poor defending, the first a free header from a corner and the second gifted after Thomas had a brain fart, leaving a long ball to drift over him that was collected and easily scored from. Kelly scrambled in an injury-time consolation and almost equalised with the last chance of the game, the keeper clawing away a goal bound header.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 5, Davies 5, **Harper 6**, Mugabi 5, Thomas 4, Ellis 5, Macadam 4 (Grant 5), Whelan 4 (Kelly

6), Wearne 4, Linney 5, Armstrong 4 (Ajiboye 6)

Aug 31st (Sun)

Cheltenham Town's deadline day move for former loan striker **Terry Ablade** falls through after the 23-year-old Ghanaian fails the medical.

Sep 1st (Mon)

Ten years since his last one, old boy **Alex Gilliead** is back at Brunton Park for a second loan spell after exiting Shrewsbury Town where he's struggled this season for minutes.

Ryan Loft's agent does it again, getting a season-long loan to Crawley Town from Cambridge United.

Sep 3rd (Wed)

BRACKLEY TOWN (0) 0 CUFC (0) 1

The kind of scrappy three points that promotion-winning teams welcome when they look back at the end of a season. Ellis and Linney produced the bit of class needed to settle the contest, a nicely threaded through ball finished superbly across the keeper by the free-scoring front man from the edge of the area. The fact his mate Chris Conn-Clarke was watching the game heightened the rumour that he may be on his way to United and on tonight's midfield showing, we'll need him.



Linney is the difference at Brackley

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 6, Davies 7, Harper 6, Mugabi 6, Thomas 7 (Whelan), Ellis 7, Macadam 6, Gilliead 7 (Armstrong 6), Wearne 6 (Grant), **Linney 8** (Hayden), Kelly 6.

Linney is one of four players nominated for the Enterprise National League Player of the Month award for August.

Starting with Truro, away fans get lobbed out of the East Stand not to mention the short-term 'A' stand experiment, in favour of a soaking and a view of grazing sheep from the open Waterworks End.

Former sporting director **Rob Clarkson**

gets the head of recruitment gig at Liverpool FC Women with ex- loanee **Gareth Taylor** alongside as their new head coach.

Sep 6th (Sat)

CUFC YTH (1) 5 NOTTS COUNTY YTH (0) 1

Again, no match details other than the goals came from a Towers brace, Mason, Rafferty and Lambert.

CUFC (2) 3 TRURO CITY (0) 0

The Blues were able to rush into a two-goal lead and while a good overall performance, not going for the jugular could be a regret should placings come down to goal difference. Harper had picked out Wearne's intelligent run and the squared ball turned in by Arm-

strong, quickly followed by his volleyed second after Linney's blocked shot had lobbed up and the defence left flat-footed. It was three within the hour, Linney looking for another goal of the season contender and finding it by beating a couple of men and letting rip with a shot that sped in the air across the keeper and into the net via the Warwick End crossbar. Other chances came and went not least Macadam just missing the target when 1 v 1 with the keeper.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 7, Davies 7, Harper 6, Mugabi 6, Thomas 6, Ellis 6 (Grant 6), Gilliead 7 (Macadam 6), Wearne 6 (Whelan 6), Ajiboye 6 (Luamba 6), Linney 7 (Kelly), **Armstrong 8**.

Sep 8th (Mon)

Former long-time BP groundsman **Ted Swainson** passes away peacefully at the age of 79.

Sep 9th (Tue)

CUFC play a behind closed doors friendly with no details given of the opposition or score, only that five or six first team players featured including **Feeney** and **Lewis**, along with possibly **Murray**, **Williams** and **Jones**.

Sep 10th (Wed)

Simmo gets a head coach gig in the US leading their U16 National Team.

Sep 11th (Thu)

Ex-Blue **Anton Dudik** joins Lithuanian top-flight side DFK Dainava, who finished 4th last season.

Sep 13th (Sat)

CUFC YTH (1) 2 MANSFIELD TOWN YTH (2) 2

Goals from Towers & Lowes earned a point for the Blues after being 2-0 down.

CUFC (0) 2 ALDERSHOT TOWN (0) 0

Onwards and upwards for the Blues, former loan keeper Marcus Dewhurst performing a few heroics to keep the Shots in the game but finally beaten by another fine Linney finish and then Mugabi with his first goal set up by Macadam.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 6, Davies 6 (Macadam 6), Harper 7, **Mugabi 9**, Thomas 8, Ellis 6, Gilliead 7 (Grant), Wearne 7 (Whelan), Luamba 7 (Kelly 6), Linney 8 (Ajiboye), Armstrong 7

Sep 15th (Mon)

United icon **Danny Grainger** rejoins the Blues as a lead youth development phase coach looking after the club's academy at under-12 to under-16 level.

Sep 16th (Tue)

After a frustrating time at Darlington, **Dan Hopper** goes out on a work experience loan to yes you've guessed it, the Jameaters, who also extend **Hayden Atkinson's** loan.

Sep 17th (Wed)

Recent loanee **Dominic Sadi** joins Serbian top-flight side FK Novi Pazar on a season-long loan deal.

Sep 19th (Fri)

Liam Noble doesn't even make it to January as he departs Newcastle Blue Star to join Ashington AFC.

Sep 20th (Sat)

CUFC YTH (1) 2 ROTHERHAM UTD YTH (1) 3

No CUFC details given for the Blues' first league defeat of the season, the visitors social feed noting "it was Carlisle who opened the scoring when an intricate passing move from a central area in midfield saw a duo of blue shirts combine to devastating effect, with a nifty one-two on the edge of the area eventually leaving a home player to stroke the ball beyond the 'keeper to make it 1-0" and "Carlisle's second goal came from a throw in high up the left which was well-worked back out to the wing where a deep cross was delivered and

met with a fine taming of the ball on the chest of a Cumbrians attacker, before he subsequently fired through the legs of a defender, leaving goalkeeper Louis Bassett unsighted and restoring the hosts' advantage at 2-1." The winning goal for the Millers was an own goal.

ALTRINCHAM (1) 1 CUFC (2) 2

A spirited, battling performance against in the face of atrocious conditions and refereeing with the players putting their bodies on the line. Hindsight is easy however once Harper was on a yellow from the card-happy clown and also facing Reddin, their trickiest player, he should have been substituted at the break. The inevitable red meant it was full on backs to the wall second half to defend the lead given to them from Kelly's strong header from a Wearne cross and a ninth for the season from Linney, another masterclass in finishing from off the left side and at distance.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 7, Davies 8 (Feeney), Harper 6, Thomas 7, Mugabi 7, Ellis 7, Gilliead 7, Wearne 7 (Macadam 6), Luamba 6 (Jones 6), **Linney 8** (Ajiboye 6), Kelly 7.

Dutch attacking midfielder **Jed Abbey**, who featured as a pre-season trialist before being released in early August after our win at Chester City, re-signs

for NLN side Alfreton Town, where he was their top scorer in 2024/5.

Sep 23rd (Tue)

YORK CITY (3) 5 CUFC (0) 0

This was very much the United from the last two seasons we've been missing, where have you been? It easily could have been worse; the hosts were too quick and too sharp all over the pitch and deservedly handed out a shoeing. If this was our first audition against one the genuine top 7 or 8 favoured sides, it failed miserably not helped with some odd team and formation decisions including Wearne pushed out on the right and the inexperienced Murray selected at LB ahead of, well anyone quite frankly.

CUFC Player Ratings*: **Breeze 5**, Davies 4, Murray 4 (Jones 5), Thomas 3, Mugabi 3, Ellis 3 (Kelly 5), Macadam 3, Gilliead 4, Wearne 3 (Whelan 5), Linney 4 (Feeney 5), Armstrong 4 (Luamba).

First-year pro **Jake Allan** heads out on loan until January with knock-me-down-with-a-feather, you've guessed it, Edmo's Jameaters.

Sep 24th (Wed)

28-year-old ex-Blue **Olufela Olomola** will be sporting the number 9 shirt on his return to Wealdstone for a second

time following a successful trial.

Sep 27th (Sat)

CUFC (0) 0 ROCHDALE (1) 2

The grumbles in the wake of York quickly amplified further with a negative and pedestrian performance lacking in any cohesion or fluidity. Dale coasted to victory as United's side-to-side passing barely threatened any headway all afternoon, it almost becoming an enactment of Williamson-ball at its lowest ebb but now a further division down the pyramid. The abandonment of a starting 5-3-2 to 4-4-2 after only 20 minutes was at least pragmatic, although it didn't serve to make much difference with the Blues one genuine opportunity somehow fluffed by Harper in the last action of the first half. Perhaps Hughes is not the messiah, just a naughty boy.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 5, Feeney 5, Mugabi 4 (Davies 4), Thomas 4, Harper 4, Williams 5 (Luamba 5), Macadam 4 (Ellis 4), Whelan 4 (Wearne 4), Gilliead 5, **Linney 5**, Armstrong 4 (Kelly 5).

Sep 29th (Mon)

United are drawn at home to fellow NL side Boston United in the FA Cup fourth round qualifying.

Oct 1st (Wed)

CUFC (1) 3 HARTLEPOOL UTD (0) 1

A spell in the trauma recovery unit work with the Blues surviving an early scare rescued by Breeze to take control and earn a deserved victory over the Chimp Chokers. The left-side dynamic duo of Linney and Harper combined early doors for the latter to finally break his scoring duck with a well-taken shot across the keeper. Pools scrambled one back early in the second to give the whiff of a potential wobble however that was dispelled with further chances for Luamba before Harper's early cross was swept in by Kelly. Any chance of a late comeback was put to bed when a half-cleared corner fell to Linney and his cross was calmy buried by Feeney.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 7, Davies 7, **Harper 8**, Thomas 6 (Grant 7), Muga-bi 6 (Feeney 7), Ellis 7, Gilliead 6, Wearne 7 (Whelan), Luamba 7 (Williams), Linney 8 (Armstrong), Kelly 8.

Mugabi and **Thomas** are doubts for the weekend and perhaps beyond after coming off with hamstring twang during the game.

Oct 3rd (Fri)

MORECAMBE YTH (0) 0 CUFC YTH (3) 5 - FA YOUTH CUP SECOND QR

A rampant display by Birch's Babes, sending them off to either Newcastle

Benfield or Gateshead in the next round. Towers and Mason both scored a brace with Smith converting the goal of the game after some brilliant play from United down the right involving Bell.

CUFC XI: Worth, Atkinson (McDonough 83), Hodgson (Rafferty 79), Penney, Porter, Rigby, Towers (Bell 73), Lowes, Lambert (Hatton 73), Mason, Smith (Tonge 83)

United keeper prospect **Thomas Randall** makes a loan move to Carlisle City on a one-month work experience loan as cover for ex-Blue **Scott Simons**, who may miss a few games after picking up knee knock.

Callum Guy signs for Nottinghamshire Senior League side Notts Olympic, scoring a lovely direct free kick over the wall on his debut. The NSL is at Step 11, which is ridiculous when he was holding his own at Step 3 just two years ago.

Oct 4th (Sat)

SCUNTHORPE UTD (0) 0 CUFC (1) 1

A great win achieved in the face of some well-directed thuggery from the home side, the "You've Been Flattened by the Iron" meme never more appropriate. Seeing Luamba being elbowed into next week and his assailant walk



away with just a yellow was a jaw dropping, he probably only survived through their skipper deservedly being sent for an early bath after going studs up on Kelly's shin.

The Irishman had one of his best games for United, holding the ball up superbly. Feeney and **Hayden** were rocks at the back and threats at the other end, the latter missing with an early far post header but making amends by volleying in a corner to send the away army bouncing. The second period wasn't pretty, probably not helped by various members on a booking. United however held on, the big squeaky bum moment arriving in injury time when the 10-man hosts threw everything at the Blues and hit the post.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Breeze 7, Davies

8, Harper 8, Feeney 8, **Hayden 8**, Ellis 7, Gilliead 6 (Armstrong 6), Wearne 6 (Whelan), Luamba 6 (Grant 7), Linney 6 (Williams 6), Kelly 8.

Oct 5th (Sun)

Former head coach **Mike Williamson** is asked to Do One from Rangers alongside boss Russell Martin after just one win from seven league games and a schooling from Club Brugge (are the drinks free) in Europe.

Oct 6th (Mon)

Former gaffers watch out, this time its assistant manager **Neil McDonald** shown the exit door by the Chimp Chokers after just two months at the club.

Oct 9th (Thu)

After over a month of strong specula-

tion, 23-year-old **Chris Conn-Clarke** joins the Blues on loan from Peterborough initially until the end of January with options to extend or buy the player part of the deal. In what United fans hope will turn out to be a Bridges-like statement signing, CCC had a superb, POTY 2023/24 campaign with Altrincham in the National League, scoring 22 goals in 47 outings before a sizeable transfer fee prised him away to Posh.



Oct 10th (Fri)

Reservist **Ethan Robson** heads the other way through the gates, joining NLN 4th-placed club Spennymoor Town on loan until the end of the season, probably marking the end of his career in a United shirt. We'll always have that free kick

at Woking, however.

Another ex-Blue hands back his key to the Executive toilet making it three gone in five days. This time it's **Darren Edmondson** paying the price for the Jameaters' poor start to the season.

Following his departure from Rangers, Kavanagh-era loan star **Tom Lawrence** is off for some hard yakka with Perth Glory ahead of the new A-League season.

Oct 11th (Sat)

CUFC YTH (0) 1 DONCASTER ROVERS YTH (0) 0

The nippers win again thanks to a 2nd half goal from Tai Bell.

CUFC (3) 5 BOSTON UTD (0) 2 - FA CUP QR4

Chris Conn-Clarke who, nobody from the East Stand or Warwick clapped him off when he was substituted? Maybe Peterborough should be paying us to take him off their hands, little wonder United, FGR and York were all reportedly playing hardball with their Chairman. A couple of excellent goals, a MoM award and he's probably not even 100% match fit and sharp yet given his complete lack of first team action this season. It would be unfair to call it the CCC show, the first 20 minutes were brighter

than a summer's day with the Blues too hot for the visitors to handle. Ajiboye's laser-focused shot into the opposite corner, birthday boy Grant's neat close-range finish from a low cross and Williams delivering on a plate for the Viking to sweep home saw the side race into a 3-0 lead. Boston looked punch drunk, just about hung on for the remainder of the half before to their credit, throwing men forward to score two decent goals themselves helped by some sleepy defending at the start of the second period. Late arrivals from the HT tuck shop were greeted by Lewis having to be sharp to prevent an equaliser; not quite what they were expecting when they left their seat. CCC then used the next 20 minutes to launch a one-man mission to send the Blues into the hat against the big boys of, cough, Accrington and Crawley. Ajiboye and Whelan found him just inside the area and similar to our first, he saw the inside of the far post, pulled the bow back and off it sang into the corner. He then picked up on Kelly's hard-earned lay off, pirouetting and arching the ball over the despairing keeper, who could only help it into the net. Job done.

CUFC Player Ratings*: Lewis 7, Williams 8, Murray 6, Feeney 7, Hayden 7, Ellis 6 (Hetherington), Grant 7, Whelan 6 (Jones 6), **Conn-Clarke 9** (Gilliead),

Ajiboye 7 (Davies), Armstrong 7 (Kelly 6).



Mike Kilner

*Player ratings (star man in bold, min 10 minutes) used with kind permission from [Jon Colman @News & Star](#) - see link for subscription offers and details.

**Player ratings from Sofascore.com

Branch Q&A with Tom Piatak



Back in July, the London Branch had a Q&A session with Tom Piatak, to look ahead to the new season. In case you missed it, Mike Kilner provides a summary of the questions, all submitted by branch members and Tom's answers.

Q) Where does the club see itself in five years' time?

A) Stable League One club pushing towards the Championship.

Q) re: Tom confirmed they would coming over for c. first five weeks of the new season. With that in mind, any thoughts of having an August or early September fans' forum in the city?

A) Would be happy to attend, we will discuss it with Nigel.

Q) Should the club appoint a senior media executive to lead the online & off-line offering, which has to date been piecemeal at best?

A) Yes, we are actively in the process of recruiting for that role re: "Head of Marketing and Media".

Q) Query on the decision to put much of the club's media content behind a pay wall

(CUTV) and the thinking behind that, when good content was previously available on the club's YouTube channel for example. The present situation is potentially alienating fans.

A) CUTV does make a financial contribution to the club as part of it being financially sustainable as a long-term goal, however, recognise it could be doing much more and needs to improve. Recruited person will be involved in doing so.

Q) With the signing of Bevis Mugabe, we now have quite a sizeable squad (28?). Is the squad potentially now too large given having too many players can lead to weaker team spirit, unhappy players not getting game time etc.

A) There is a plan in place with Mark H and Mark T to get to the right numbers while noting facilitating necessary departures can take time to be completed.

Q) Further to the recent Sam Lavelle podcast, were there relegation clauses in place within player contracts to insulate the club from financial burdens.

A) Recent January window mentioned and yes, such clauses were in place and normal for all contracts to include both promotion and relegation clauses. Club has therefore been financially protected following relegation from the EFL.

Q) Last season we of course brought Dominic Sadi and Daniel Adu-Adjei on loan to Brunton Park from Bournemouth, which was partly facilitated by a relationship between Tom and their Chairman, Bill Foley. Should we expect that avenue to be explored again for loan signings once the Cherries have decided on which players in their talent pool, would benefit from senior football?

A) The channel with them is most certainly open, along this time with other clubs. We think the process is better than we were 12 months ago (i.e. watch this space).

Q) The prioritisation to invest in youth development including a viable pathway to the first team etc.... is it there and important to the club?

A) Very much so, we need a very strong academy system and the Sheepmout investment is part of that. The number of young players that have been training and playing with the first-team pre-season shows the commitment to bring players through and that a pathway exists.

Q) We again had a spate of injuries last season; have we done anything to try and improve our record?

A) The club included that as part of the recent review and perhaps surprisingly, the numbers at CUFC were not out of line with other L2 clubs. Sophie doing a great job and club is doing everything to treat injuries as effectively and responsibly as possible.

Q) Is there a vision for the CUFC ladies' team as part of the wider plan?

A) Yes fully support, part of the plan and some of their matches will be showcased at the Sheepmount to help build the community links with the ladies' team. That will hopefully increase once 3 pitches available.

Q) What is the likely cost of a season in the National League to the club?

A) The club thinks roughly £1m a season in net lost revenue versus being in the EFL. That hasn't changed either the funding to the club from the owners or future plans. Trying to make it up through hospitality and other commercial streams. Recognise that a very successful NL season will start making a noticeable dent into that £1m.

Q) The current club web site says the Facilities Manager role is vacant, is that still the case?

A) Current resources are sufficient to cover the role however, we do want to recruit for it in the future.

Q) Did the top-to-bottom review point to any quick wins, particularly in commercial growth for example?

A) Yes, the new role (see previous) and hospitality growth very much part of that.

Q) Is there a wish to see CUFC improve its footprint and recognition in the States?

A) Took a bit of a back seat with relegation, once back in the EFL and certainly L1, those opportunities will be explored.

Q) Any developments with stadium naming rights?

A) There have been discussions however, it must be with the right partner and ideally a local or regional sponsor. There won't be anything imminent.

Q) The DAZN TV rights ownership and limited notice when moving games is causing

issues with fans around travel planning and cost. Do we have any sway in trying to reduce this issue with DAZN?

A) The club, through Nigel and Suzanne, is trying to work with the NL and DAZN as best they can to lessen those issues.

Q) Following on, has the club thought about running coaches where short notice travel issues exist?

A) It's being discussed to see if it can be addressed through the Supporters Trust.

Q) Any update on replacing the dugouts at Brunton Park, which was talked about?

A) The designs are good however, the plans are on hold for this year while prioritising other capital projects such as player houses on WR, the Foxes' bathrooms and other necessary improvements in the ground, not to mention the Sheepmount investment.

Q) Any plans to purchase more Warwick Road to expand access and developments?

A) Three houses have been bought since takeover and now close to full walkaround access for the whole ground. Concerned about overpaying so will look as and when any properties come onto the market rather than forcing anything through.

Q) Do you still believe the Sheepmount site is/was the best site for the training hub?

A) Aware of recent soil erosion issue. Still right behind the site and the recent, successful Middlesborough match brought home that it's the right location.

Q) Any update on the much-discussed long-term lease for the Sheepmount?

A) Very optimistic about the Council agreeing to the club's long-term plans and vision for Sheepmount moving forward, all the noises are good, just unable to put a firm timeline on it. Not looking for exclusive use, clear that it would be a shared facility that will benefit the whole community, which in turn will be good PR for the club for example.

CUSG PREDICTION COMPETITION STANDINGS @ 3/10/25

Pos	Name	Pts	Pos	Name	Pts
1	Ian Kellitt B	29	31	Mike Kilner B	16
2	Sarah Edwards	29	32	John Kukuc A	16
3	Simon Clarkson A	28	33	Neil Nixon A	15
4	Neil Nixon B	28	34	Iain Davidson B	15
5	Bob Ham	28	35	John Kukuc B	15
6	Rick Wilkes B	28	36	Anna Jensen	13
7	Dan Coughlan	26	37	Lee Rawcliffe LD A	13
8	Mike Temple	26	38	Jason Casey A	13
9	Blake Vamadevan	26	39	Mark Scott	12
10	Sandro Scapin	26	40	Peter Koelle	12
11	Ken Hullock B	25	41	Mike Kilner A	12
12	Martin Coughlan	24	42	Bryan Hemingway B	12
13	Andrew Fullalove	24	43	Mark Temple	11
14	Rick Wilkes A	24	44	Chris Holmes B	11
15	Ken Hullock A	24	45	Lee Rawcliffe LD B	10
16	Lee Cragg	20	46	Danny Cornwell LD	9
17	Dave Brown A	20	47	Martin Broad A	9
18	Iain Davidson A	20	48	Marley Vamadevan	9
19	Martin Lundie	20	49	Neill Collins	8
20	Simon Clarkson B	19	50	Stuart Westhead LD	8
21	Robert Calvert A	19	51	Bryan Hemingway A	8
22	Kev McGeorge	18	52	Lucas Tembey	7
23	Dave Spencer B	18	53	Maceo Collins	7
24	Richard Coughlan	17	53	Bex Potts	7
25	Martin Broad B	17	55	Robert Calvert B	6
26	Ian Kellitt A	17	56	Alistair Blackett	5
27	Chris Holmes A	17	57	Jason Casey LD	5
28	Pete Edwards	17	58	Martin Thomas	5
29	Chris Tembey	16	59	Dave Brown B	0
30	Dave Spencer A	16			

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2025/26



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We have regular social events in central London, often at the Civil Service Club, off Whitehall.

Virtual Hit the Bar! carries news of all forthcoming events.

**Look out for details of matches, meeting places
and other events in Virtual HTB! or visit**



The copy deadline for HTB! 339 will be notified in your weekly VHTB!
Matchday picture credits to Richard Parkes and the CUFC media team

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