



The Newsletter from Currie Star FC

## Christmas Message from the Chairman



Hello All and a very warm welcome to the Festive Edition of the Currie Star Newsletter. As we near the end of 2012 we need to reflect

on our experiences and, more importantly, look forward to the future.

Colin Ritchie resigned as Chairman after giving 6 great years to Currie Star. We thank Colin for all his hard work and wish him all the very best in the future. Euan Blue and Scott McClaren moved on from the 1998s and Paul McGovern is now the Head Coach. Paul also coaches Hibernian Football Club 2001s so we are delighted to have secured such a well qualified coach. James Watson has also moved on from the 2002s. I would like to thank all these coaches for their work at Currie Star and wish them all the best in the future.

Currie Star recruited 9 new coaches to the Club since August, predominantly working in the junior divisions. These coaches are the future of the Club and we thank them all for giving up their time to work with us. It is great to see such enthusiasm from people who want to learn and develop.

Our senior teams are doing very well with 4 out of 5 either top of their leagues or thereabouts. Dean Montgomery's 2000 team recently got through to the last 16 of the Scottish Cup. This was a phenomenal achievement as it is the first time a Currie Star team have progressed so far. My thanks to Dean, his coaching staff

and most importantly, the players. I am looking forward to filling our new trophy cabinets at the end of the season!

Looking forward, we will have our first ever Currie Star Burns Supper on 25 January at George Watsons College. I am hoping as many of you as possible can attend this event as I am sure it will be a fantastic night. This will be the first time since I have been at the Club, where we will have parents and coaches from ALL Currie Star teams together. A great idea from Ken Stewart of our 2005s. There are a few tickets remaining so please contact Issie Blue if you wish to purchase some and if you can donate any auction or raffle prizes that would be much appreciated. Please email Ken on [kjstewart@doctors.net.uk](mailto:kjstewart@doctors.net.uk).

We were recently visited by Surveyors from Edinburgh City Council and they were taken aback by the cleanliness of our Clubhouse, stating it was by the far the best kept they had seen. A huge thanks to Jane and Kerry who kindly give up so much of their time to look after us all so well and turn up on Sunday mornings in all weathers to ensure we are supplied with hot drinks and bacon butties! Sincere thanks to both.

That's enough from me other than to wish all players, coaches, parents, Issie, Jane and Kerry and our partners at Play2Learn and Heriot Watt Sports Union, all the very best over the festive period. I wish you countless good wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a successful New Year, with my special gratitude for all your support during 2012.

*John*



## NAME THE NEWSLETTER

We had a competition recently where players of the Club were asked to submit a name for our Newsletter. Issie Blue, Club Treasurer, was asked to choose a winner and she opted for the name 'Super Star.' Issie said "Thank you very



much for giving me the honour of choosing the name for your wonderful Newsletter. All the entries are

very good and well done to all who submitted them. I have always thought of Currie Star as a superb club so my favourite entry has to be SUPER STAR."

Well done to Murray Cannon of team 2001 for coming up with this innovative name! Here he is with his £20 of Colin Campbell gift vouchers, which I hope he enjoys spending. Thanks to Colin Campbell Sports for their support. Look out for this editions competition later in the newsletter.

## INJURED CURRIE STAR PLAYERS

John Brock has a message for those players who are currently injured. "We all know, especially as the boys get older, that injuries are part and parcel of playing football or any other sport. However, this can be a frustrating period for boys as they can't train or play with their pals and often feel left out. In recent weeks, Currie Star players, Fraser Kirkman and Scott Napier, have broken their wrist and collarbone respectively. Also Ross Howarth has broken his wrist while playing in a cup tie against Leith Athletic and Mark McGovern broke a bone in his

foot during a league match against North Berwick. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the players for all their hard work and to wish them all speedy recoveries."

## A FAMILY TALE

Jamie (Team 2002) and Charlie (Team 2004) Blyth's Great Grandad played for Hibs - his name is Jim Blyth. Their other Grandad (also called Jim) started at Tynecastle Boys and is on their webpage (very old picture) playing for Falkirk and Dunfermline before moving to Blackpool in the old English First Division (now the Premier League) but unfortunately his career was cut short shattering his shin playing for the Scotland Under 21s. He then moved into football management, managing at his pinnacle Scotland Under 21s which held players like John Collins and Keith Wright to name a couple of players. He helped out a Hibs legend Peter Cormack (a family friend) at Morton before they were both asked to leave for throwing the chairman out of the dressing room, which his grandchildren think is hilarious! Charlie and Jamie would both love to follow their Great Grandad in playing for the Hibs one day, and are both disgusted that their dad (Scott, a Currie star coach) played for Tynecastle, before moving to teams that the boys say they have never heard of.

## NEWS FROM 2005s

2005s had a great Christmas party at World of Bowling although the Manchester derby on the TV screens was clearly more interesting than the bowling scores.

## NEWS FROM 1998s

Team 1998 raised £1,000 at the end of November packing bags at Morrisons at the Gyle. Well done to all the boys, who did a terrific job - and special thanks to the parents that helped out on the day, particularly Laura Gourlay who organised everything brilliantly.



## PLAY2LEARN END OF YEAR UPDATE:

All the staff at **Play2Learn** would like to thank all the players, coaches and representatives that we have met in our first 6 months of being involved with the thriving and mighty Currie Star F.C. Everyone has been extremely friendly, receptive and enthusiastic towards what we are doing at the Club.

Here is a quick update of our programmes:

### **P2L 'Saturday Morning Aeroplane and Petite Football' Born 2006/7 & 2008/9.**

This group is going from strength to strength with 50 budding Currie Star F.C. footballers attending sessions having great fun and enjoying lots of touches of the ball in our themed imaginary story based activities. This is hoped to provide Currie Star F.C. with an excellent foundation at the entry age level at the 'Monday Night Academy'.

### **P2L 'Monday Night Academy' Born 2004/5**

The age group play 4v4 matches on a Sunday. The academy session is divided into 2 sections, the first being a technical coaching session with different themes each week, the second part of the session is 4v4 matches and conditioned games based on the related theme. The group is fast approaching 50 players and again the children have thoroughly bought into the Play2Learn ideas and we are seeing huge developments both in teams and as individuals. Currie Star F.C. coaches have also become enthusiastically involved in this group with an influx of new young coaches cutting their teeth in this format of the game.

### **P2L 'Goalkeeping Academy' u12s and below (7-a-side) & u13 and above (11-a-side)**

This runs alongside the 'Monday Night Academy'. The first group is consisted from GKs in the age groups from U-12 down playing 7-a-side and the

second session is for GKs from U13s upwards playing 11-a-side. In total around 12 GKs attend regularly, who are developing nicely and beginning to bond together and identify themselves as a special group of players. The sessions are again themed each week, covering all aspects of this specialised position.

**Play2Learn** would like to wish all at the club a Merry Xmas and we are looking forward to a fantastic New Year with Currie Star F.C.



## COACH RESOURCES

We have recently introduced the Currie Star Coaching Library, which John Brock believes to be an innovative strategy to ensure all our coaches continually educate themselves and become even better. He said "The focus of this Club is to provide youngsters with an environment where they are safe and can develop, not only as players, but as people. Good quality coaching will ensure they want to remain with the Club and hopefully stay with us whilst enjoying their football and making friends." Please contact John if you want to access these resources.

## 2001 FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Gary McDonald has managed to pull all the costs and income together from the Sportsman's Lunch he organised, and we are delighted to announce that £3,200 was raised. Absolutely fantastic. A huge thanks to Gary and all the others who helped him arrange this, from Pat to Ian, to Tom, Paula and Iain. A great collective team effort. Brilliant.



## A WORD OF THANKS

Issie Blue has asked that we say a huge thank you to everyone for their comforting messages of support during her unfortunate spell of illness. Issie said "They were all very much appreciated. Also, will you please say a huge thank you on my behalf to Jane & Kerry Watson for the wonderful work they are doing cleaning the pavilion and running the tuck shop - I cannot thank them enough. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone at Currie Star A Merry Christmas and A Happy Healthy New Year." Thanks Issie, the same best wishes to you from all your Currie Star family.

## NEWS FROM THE 2004s

Since the beginning of September the 2004s have played 11 weeks of football 4's on a Sunday at Leith Links with an average of 14 players and coaches involved each week. It's been cold there on Sunday mornings but as always, a worthwhile and valuable experience for the boys. The 2004s have recruited two new coaches recently, Stuart Christie and Erin Hogg - welcome one and all to the Currie Star 2004s. I'm sure you will find us to be a friendly, happy and supportive group. A Christmas party for the boys was held on Saturday 15 December at World of Bowling - it was a great opportunity for everyone to get together socially for something a bit different.

## NEW STRIPS FOR 2001s

David Muego (Coach) and Callum Shand (player) from 2001s both entered the recent Forth One competition with Eastern Western Motor Group to win a set of strips for their team. When Currie Star was read out on air as a winner, neither David or Callum knew who had won. As it turns out it was David's entry and the team will get their new strips in the New Year, but well done Callum for thinking of your team. The strips will be presented by Boogie from Forth One's Breakfast Show 'Boogie in the Morning'.

## A GREAT SCOTTISH CUP RUN FROM 2000s

**Round 1** - Played our first round game vs. Currie Boys in a local derby with a comfortable 19-0 win!

**Round 2** - vs. Grangemouth, an unknown outfit. Didn't get off to the best of starts, down 3-1 in first 15mins and looked like it was going to be a tough game. We then started to get into the game and took our chances. 2nd half was very one sided with game finishing 12-3!

**Round 3** - vs. Crosshouse BC (Kilmarnock). They had a 100% record in their league but we were up 2 up at HT. Crosshouse got a goal back and the pressure was on. They finally got the break they deserved and made it 2-2. The game went into ET but our fitness showed and our boys then turned the style on and we ran out 6-2 winners.

**Round 4** - vs. Wolves (Cumbernauld). Our first away trip in the Scottish Cup, the game started scrappy and both teams did not really look like scoring. We were 2 up at HT and we had to go for the 3rd goal and kill the tie off. Despite them pulling one back the game ended 8-1.

**Round 5** vs. Leith Athletic - The toughest game of the round, a team sitting joint top of First Division. We started the better but Leith took an early 2 goal lead. Russell Cairns hit a 'Ronaldo style' free kick but they scored to make it 3-1 at HT. We kept fighting hard to get back into the game but were just playing catch up and Leith ran out eventual 6-3 winners.

During the marvellous Cup run we had goals from Russell Cairns - 15, Robbie Campbell - 12, Sam Anderson - 9, James Cameron - 3, Max Bendle - 2, Cammy Laurie -2, and one each from Nathan Gilmour, Jay Stirling, Dean Galloway, Andrew Lickley, Jack Passmore. Well done boys.

Currie Star player of the tournament - RUSSELL CAIRNS.



## PLAYER PROFILE

Every Newsletter edition will feature an interview with a 'Star' Player. This edition it is Max Bendle, captain of Team 2000.

1. **Position:** Centre Midfield
2. **Favourite teams:** Hibs, Man Utd, Real Madrid
3. **Favourite Players:** Ronaldo, Neymar, Leigh Griffiths
4. **Last movie seen:** Skyfall
5. **Favourite Singers/Bands:** Ed Sheeran, Devlin, Pro Green, Smiler, Skrillex
6. **Ambitions:** Win Scottish Cup with Currie Star, then win a Scottish Cup with Hibs, captain Scotland, play in a World Cup, play in the Premier League, and win. Play with or versus Messi, Ronaldo or Neymar. Ultimately play with Man Utd.
7. **Last i-Tunes song bought:** Million Voices by Otto Knows
8. **What I want for Xmas:** Nike GS2, Headphones, Man U shirt (Van Persie), Real Madrid shirt, Football, Clothes & Other random stuff.
9. **Favourite goal scored by me:** Home match versus Tynecastle. 6 - 1 down at half time. We turned it around and won 7 - 6. Goal was into top right corner from midway between box and half way line, from left wing.
10. **Who/What makes me laugh:** Dean Montgomery (coach) 'running', Hearts playing football and Michael McIntyre.

Thanks for listening.  
Max.



## STRANGE BUT TRUE .....

Dave McLellan from Team 2002 sent in this picture of him taking part in the BUPA Run in 2008 (that's him in the dark blue top, black hair). What's so strange about that, you may ask. Well, the guy on his right hand side is none other than his coach colleague from the 2002 silver squad, Stuart Aitken, but the photo was taken 3 years before they ever met through coaching at Currie Star! Dave said, "It's strange how our paths crossed since that race but I think I beat him round the circuit though." Sounds like a re-match may be in order, Dave!



## THE GREAT CURRIE STAR BAKE OFF

Carolyn Brock organised a bake sale for Team 2001 funds and enlisted the help of parents to bake and man The stall one Sunday morning. to everyone's generosity we were able to raise £170.



Here are a couple of the helpers with some of the fabulous baking. They even took some of the baking out onto the pitches on trays to sell.

## NEW RECRUITS

Fraser Mills, Ollie Doyle and Ruaidhri Jamieson have joined Team 2004, Andrew Jamieson has joined Team 2001 and Gavin Hendry has joined Team 2002 - a warm welcome to all the boys. Hope you are enjoying your time with Currie Star.



## COACHES GAINING QUALIFICATIONS

Many thanks to all the coaches below who kindly gave up their time and achieved success in the following coaching qualifications:

Level 1 Children: Ken Stewart (2005) / Brendan O'Brien (2005) / Al Reynolds (2005) / Stuart Christie (2004) / Debbie Strachan (2003) / Stuart McDonald (2002) / Callum Arnott (2002) / Adam Gillard (2002) / Ally Brown (2002) / Jack Conway (2002)

Level 2 Children: Richard Fraser (2005)

Level 3 Children: Donald Inglis (2002)

## NEWS FROM THE 2003s

2003s had a great Xmas party at World of Bowling on Sunday 9th December - a great way to reward the lads for a fantastic & fun first half of the season. They are currently in the process of bringing the 4 x 2003 sides closer together in all areas - training, coaching, Futsal, squad selection & rotation. From January 2013, 3 out of the 4 squads will train together on Wednesdays - 2 x Maradona & 1 x Zidane. Hopefully the Beckham lads will be able to join us in the future but the training day doesn't suit right now. The plan is to hopefully create the first Pele squad for the 2003 year group for the season coming.

In addition they are starting up an additional training night for the whole 2003 year group focusing on small sided games, from January 2013, which will be great for the boys development.

## COMPETITION TIME

Thanks to Colin Campbell Sports we have another competition to run in this edition. Two lucky players will each win a £10 Colin Campbell Gift Voucher. All you have to do is complete the following sentence - "I love playing for Currie Star because ....." using no more than 10 of your own words. Your entry should be e-mailed to [david.muego@sky.com](mailto:david.muego@sky.com) by 11<sup>th</sup> January giving your Name and your Team. Winning entries will be chosen shortly after and the vouchers e-mailed to the winners. Good Luck!

## **COLIN CAMPBELLSPORTS** **Total Football**



Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the Newsletter. The Newsletter will only work going forward if we continue to get input from every age group. If you have any ideas for future editions of the newsletter please contact [david.muego@sky.com](mailto:david.muego@sky.com).