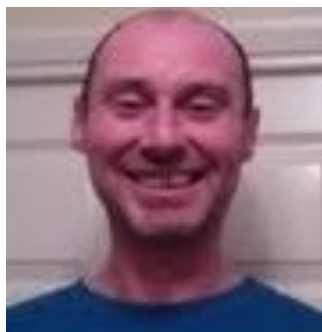




## The Newsletter from Currie Star FC



### Message from the Chairman

Hello All  
Welcome to the first Newsletter of Season 2013/14. I hope you all enjoy reading it and find this to be a useful publication

which keeps you informed of all that is going on at our Club.

There is an article in this edition dedicated to the Currie Star 2001s visit to the Gothia Cup in Sweden but I would like to add my own thoughts regarding this. In 1983, I was fortunate to be part of a team who participated in this tournament and I have never forgotten it. Two years ago, we decided we would take our boys to this event and fundraised during the intervening period. We raised £12k which meant all the boys travelled for free. The trip was fantastic. It was such a great experience for the players, coaches and parents. However, we were the FIRST ever Currie Star team to venture into Europe and I am keen that all our young players are afforded this opportunity in future. This largely comes down to the willingness of the coaches, and you as parents, to ensure sufficient funds are raised to make it possible. My aim is to return to Sweden in 2015 with four Currie Star age groups: our 1998s / 2001s / 2002s and 2003s. Please link in with your Head Coaches and discuss how we can make this possible so that Currie Star make their mark in Europe in 2015! Check out the Currie & Balerno News, out at the end of this month, for an article on the Gothia Trip.

We had our AGM in August and there were changes made to the Clubs Committee. Billy

Hislop was voted in as Vice Chairman, replacing Raymond Johnstone, who has given many years sterling service to the Star. Thank you Raymond and a warm welcome to Billy.

Issie Blue has now hung up her ledger after 8 years of service during which she cleaned the clubhouse, ran the tuck shop and kept us all right with money. Issie also won a national award for her services to the Club and we are sincerely appreciative of all she done in that time. Issie was presented with a crystal vase at the AGM as thanks for all she had done for Currie Star. Many thanks Issie. You will be missed. Stepping into the hot seat of Club Treasurer is Julien Reynolds. Julien is the dad of Henry, who plays for Currie Star 2005s. We are delighted to welcome Julien on-board and will no doubt benefit from his undoubted expertise in finance.

Additionally, Tatjana MacLeod has agreed to join our sub-committee, whose focus is to look at potential funding opportunities to raise money aimed at developing our pitches. There is no doubt that the location of Dovecot Park is fantastic. However, I don't think it would be unfair to say we have probably the worst pitches in Edinburgh. Nobody is going to come along and give us a pot of cash to resolve this so we are being proactive and looking at ways we can raise money to resolve it. This is all very positive and I look forward to working with all our Committee over the next year and beyond.

I hope all our boys have a successful season and, most importantly, enjoy being part of Currie Star.

*John*



## 2013 Gothia Cup

In July this year 2 years of fundraising and planning came to fruition and Currie Star Team 2001 took 21 players, 5 coaches and 9 parents to the Gothia World Youth Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden - the first Currie Star teams to attend this long running tournament.

On arrival in Gothenburg we were collected by coach and taken to a local primary school which was to be our base camp for the week. We thought we may have had 2 classrooms given the numbers staying at the school, however we quickly realised that we were all going to share one classroom - 6 of the parents were lucky enough to be staying in relative luxury at a hotel on the other side of Gothenburg with the remaining 3 parents at the school with the coaches and kids. To say it was a squeeze would be an understatement but thanks to the top organisational skills of Brigadier Lowder we were soon allocated our living space and set about building the camp beds in rows across the room.

Within the school there were other teams from other countries and some of our boys quickly became acquainted with some of the more glamorous fellow participants - the girls team came from one of the Scandinavian countries! Over the next 4 days the 2 teams played a combined total of 10 games across different venues which allowed us to see various areas

of Gothenburg City. One team were eliminated by the eventual South Korean winners of the B Knockout and the other team went out on a closely contested penalty shoot-out with a team from Sweden.

Overall this was a truly fantastic experience which the boys, coaches and parents thoroughly enjoyed. It was a brilliant team building opportunity and one really pleasing aspect was that the boys mixed really well with different sets of team mates who they maybe didn't know too well previously and even more so out of 21 boys living in a confined space there were no fallouts. They were a credit to themselves, their parents, their Club and their Country. I am sure that they will retain those memories for many, many years to come.



We set up a blog before the trip and this allowed us to keep the parents who stayed at home up to date with what the boys were doing and included some photos of the trip. You can still take a look at this fantastic blog at [www.curriestargothia2013.wordpress.com](http://www.curriestargothia2013.wordpress.com) to see the stories and pictures for yourselves. Plans are in course already to take the 2001s back in 2 years time and the Chairman wishes to take 3 other age groups too to make it a real Currie Star Club outing. It will take a lot of hard work to raise the funds to pay for the trip but we've 2 years in which to do it and we also have the template which was used to plan and organise the trip which can be shared with the other teams who come along next time.







## WEBSITE UPDATE

If you have tried to access our website in recent weeks you'll have noticed that we have an 'Under Construction' sign up. This is because the company who hosted the site have ceased trading. We are currently working with our new IT partners Nectre plc to launch our new website. If you do have any queries regarding the Club you can still contact us at [curriestarfootballclub@gmail.com](mailto:curriestarfootballclub@gmail.com).

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Currie Star Annual Burns Supper will be on Friday 24th January at Watsonian's Rugby Club - Myreside Road. £25 a head for three course meal and half bottle of wine. Treasurer Julien Reynolds is sorting a club PayPal account with tickets to be sold online. All over 16s are welcome (but no wine till your 18!). Maximum 150 tickets on first come basis. Special kids offer - upstairs pizza and juice with magic show and movie. All under 16s welcome (maximum 40 - £10 a head). Volunteers for Burns recitals and after dinner speeches required - contact Ken Stewart at [kjstewart@doctors.net.uk](mailto:kjstewart@doctors.net.uk) for details. Grant from 2003s - please get in touch as you are booked again!

## HERIOT WATT SUCCESS (Chris Sellar)

"Heriot-Watt beat off competition from Stirling and Dundee to host the National Performance Centre for Sport. The £30 million centre will support high performance in football, rugby and volleyball and also cater for athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, fencing, handball, hockey, netball, shinty and squash. A number of national teams will train and prepare for home matches at the Centre, including men's football and rugby, providing a truly aspirational building for the local community and Scotland as a whole. We are all excited to work with all local partners on the project as it develops over the years, with the centre scheduled to open in 2016."

## P2L SCHOOLHOLIDAY CAMP

Our October School Holiday Camp will involve Football 4s, Soccer 7s, Goalkeepers & Futsal training. It will run from Oct 14th-18th at The RHS where we have access to great indoor & outdoor facilities.

All booking info is on [www.play2learn.info](http://www.play2learn.info)  
 T: @P2LSportsCoach  
 F: Play2LearnSportsCoaching  
 Shane Mobile: 07952 147577

## HERIOT-WATT UPDATE (Chris Sellar)

"The Community Sport Hub, based at Heriot-Watt University, aims to enhance sport and physical activity provision in the South-West of Edinburgh (Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green, Wester Hailes, Sighthill, Ratho). The first few months of the Hub's existence has involved a lengthy period of consultation and planning with local sport clubs and partners, including schools, colleges, universities, facility providers and community groups and organisations. The Hub's structure and strategic plan is now in place with the following key themes; Enhancing People, Enhancing Sports, Effective Partnerships, Effective Promotion.

In terms of club engagement, 33 sports clubs were mapped in the region with 14 clubs from 13 sports now considered to be actively engaged with the Hub. Clubs will soon be invited to be officially affiliated with the Hub if they meet minimum operating standards. The Hub will then work with each affiliated club through a club development pathway, providing the club with a range of benefits along the way. Engagement from Currie Star in the Hub has been exceptional so far and we very much look forward to working with the club on this new and exciting project and through our existing partnership with HWU football club." Please contact [c.sellar@hw.ac.uk](mailto:c.sellar@hw.ac.uk) for any more information.



## 2004s UPDATE

On Sunday 8th September, families and friends of the 2004's gathered at Kingsknowe for a fundraising BBQ (see below). The weather was kind, the food was good and there was lots of entertainment on show. It was a great opportunity for all parents to get to know each other - their common ground being the club and their sons.

The event was the great team effort and raised over £400 which is a fantastic effort for the team and a big thanks to everyone for helping to make the event such a success.



## 2002s UPDATE

The 2002's continue with 5 teams playing at Maradona (3), Zidane & Beckham. They had 10 boys playing at the Annan FC tournament in June playing teams from South West Scotland. The boys got soaked but all had a good time. They also had 20 boys playing in the AM Soccer Festival, St Andrews in August playing teams from the East & Central Scotland and sun came out! They had their second Fundraising Training night in June - there were many football competitions for players to win prizes. Also tombola, cake bake, raffle, Donald's BBQ and P2L challenge. Also the now famous mums v sons football match. Not sure who won this year. Finally, they recently spent a few hours packing bags at Morrisons Gyle store.

## 2003s UPDATE

The 2003's Gold squad won the end-of-season Craig Gowans tournament in the summer, beating Leith Athletic in the final. This was a great achievement, and the first time Currie Star have had their hands on the trophy (see picture below with the boys receiving their trophy from former Hearts & Hibs star Darren Jackson & Dundee United Manager Jackie McNamara).



The season finale was a trip to Gullane beach, where all the 2003 boys received their trophies, had a picnic and ran up the famous huge sand dune! Despite picking the only rainy day of the summer (!), they all had a great time. In August they also had a very successful bag-packing day at Sainsbury's, raising £700 for year group funds and £70 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

The boys are back into training and league games this season, training as a whole year group at their new training ground at Firhill High School., which is encouraging coaches and players to get to know each other. We have three teams in the Pele, Maradona and Zidane leagues respectively. Due to reduced numbers we have had to withdraw our fourth team from the Zidane league - however we have some new triallists and may be able to re-enter if numbers permit.





## STAR PLAYER PROFILE

Every Newsletter edition features an interview with a 'Star' Player. This edition it is Liam Clark from Team 2002. We asked Liam (pictured below) a few probing questions and here are his answers.

**1. What is your favourite position?**

Striker/Centre Midfield

**2. Favourite football team(s)?** Hearts & Barcelona

**3. Favourite Player?** Gareth Bale

**4. Best goal scored?** Versus Newcraighall in the top right of the net.

**5. What boots are you wearing just now?** Piquet Nike

**6. PS3 or Xbox?** PS3

**7. Favourite computer game?** Age of Empire 3

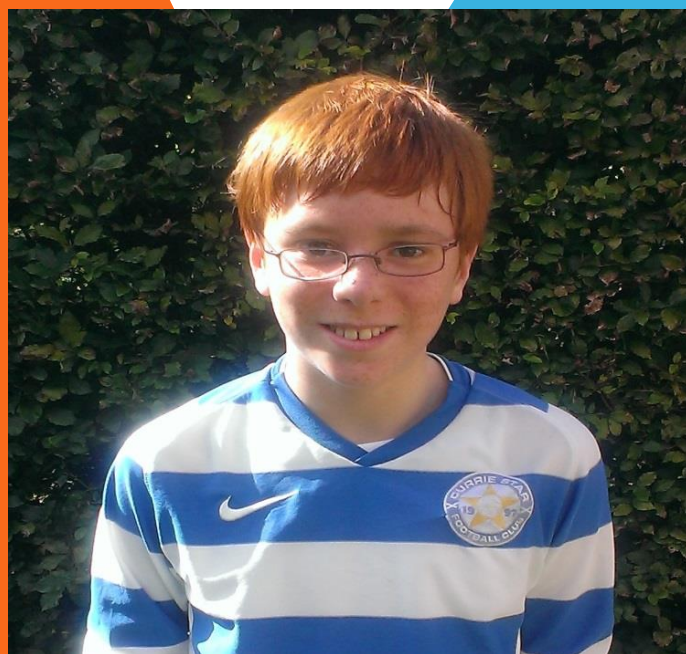
**8. Favourite current song?** Blurred Lines

**9. Favourite Movie?** Nutty Professor 2

**10. Funniest moment on the pitch?** I scored a goal and didn't know it!

**11. Who/What makes me laugh?** My Friends & stupid things

**12. Do you play any other sports?** Tennis, Golf, Rugby, Swimming.



## 2006s UPDATE

After one coach left the team, the reins have been picked up by Mike Scaife & Chris Lewis with 15-20 boys attending Monday night training. and they have enough kids to enter 3 teams at the 4's Football at Leith Links on a Sunday morning where the teams more than hold their own. If any parents want to get involved the team would welcome some more coaching support. Please speak to Mike or Chris for any further details

They also entered two teams into the Spartans tournament in August and this was a round robin event with various other Edinburgh teams. It was a great success with a number of coaches complimenting us on trying to pass and move the ball. All the players got a medal at the end and it was superbly organised by Spartans.

The 2006s also successfully secured a new kit sponsorship deal with Miller Homes and were presented with their new strips (see below) at the start of September. They are pictured with Jacqui Steel of Miller Homes. Thanks to Miller Homes for their support.



## 1997s UPDATE

The 1997s have had a great start to their season winning all 6 games played so far. Well done boys - keep up the good form. Hopefully it may lead to some silverware to add to the trophy cabinet at Kingsknowe.



## 1998s UPDATE

We are very grateful to our shirt sponsors Leith Bed Centre & First Rate Exchange Services for enabling us to get smart new 'home' and 'away' kits for the new season. Big thanks to Phil Howarth and Leith Bed Centre for sponsoring the new 'home' kit and to Gordon Gourlay (below left) for arranging First Rate Exchange Services to sponsor our new 'away' shirts.

It's been a decent start to the season, with four wins in our first five games (and 18 goals scored), putting us in equal second place in our league (2nd division) and seeing us in to the second round of the Scottish Cup. We are very ambitious for a successful campaign!

There's been a couple of early season injuries to contend with - so we wish a speedy recovery to Liam Hutchison, who picked up an injury in training and has yet to be able to play a match with us; and to Jack Harkness, who took a knock in our second match of the season and is missing around a month of action.

We've also seen a few players chose to move on, so we say farewell and thanks for all your efforts with Currie Star to Sean Alexander, Nathan Johnson, Gavin Robertson, Niall Simpson and Murray Wells.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We urgently need your help to make the tracking of player subscriptions and easier process for our new Treasurer. Can we please ask that you check the standing order payment leaving your Bank Account and make sure that it is quoting your child's name and age group, e.g., 'John Smith 2003'.

This will mean that we can allocate the money to the correct teams tracker and reduce time in tracing mystery payments. With over 300 children in the Club you will appreciate that this is no easy task. Thanks for your assistance.

## 2001s UPDATE

This is the first season at 11 a-side for the Currie Star and Currie Star Colts teams and they are both doing pretty well in their respective League campaigns. The Colts are having more luck in Cup competitions reaching the semi final already in one Cup.

We also have new shirt sponsors for each teams home kit - Sandy Balls Holiday Resort, thanks to Iain Brown, father of Dylan for the Currie Star team and GP McDonald Plumbing, thanks to Gary McDonald, father of Blair and Coach for the Currie Star Colts team. Your support is really appreciated.

## 1996s UPDATE

It's been a difficult start to the season as the 8 new players who have joined have required to get to know Harry and Dave, the coaches plus the other players in the squad. They've also had a couple of injuries keeping players out for weeks rather than days. The boys have generally done well in what is a very competitive league and the cup draws have been against 1st div sides mostly so Harry has been generally happy with the performances so far.





## PLAYERS WELCOME

- **1996s** welcome Kieran Campbell, Scott Cornet, Jack Paterson, Kai Mackai, Scott Wayth, Shaun Munro, Callum Buchan and Lee Whitecross.
- **1997s** are hoping to welcome some new players in the next few weeks.
- **1998s** welcome Liam Hutchison, Murray Drew, Lewis Connor and Dominico Pacitti.
- **2001s** welcome Jamie Slawson, Blair Primrose, Teo Cengiz, Iyad Al-Qasem, Matthew Buchanan, Conor McCabe, Michael McDonald, Dylan McMillan and welcome back Fraser Sayers.
- **2002s** welcome Niall Dance, David Mortimer, Callum Donald, Kyle Moore, Charlie Annen and Liam Livinstone
- **2004s** welcome Finlay Anderson, Johnny Arden, Jack Brown, Nat Clarke, Patrick Day, Reuben Flapan, Freddie Fuller, Calum Godon, Ewan Hutchinson, Mack Valentine and Euan Walker.
- **2005s** welcome Cameron Balfour, Alex Brennan, Freddy Foxwell, Henry Reynolds and Finlay Peterson.
- **2006s** welcome Max Sharman, Ben Sharman and Alex MacDonald.

Thanks, as always, must go to all our partners, sponsors, parents, coaches and supporters who make it all possible.

## PLAY2LEARN

"The Monday night Football 4's Academy returned to Watson's Astro where we are combining our technical training with playing Futsal. Although primarily an indoor game, Futsal is perfect for the 'old school' hockey Astro surface. The smaller heavier ball has low bounce qualities so it spends much more time on the floor. It travels at speed that is excellent for the development of skills and ball control. Also the smaller pitch area demands quick decision-making, movements off the ball and intensity.

"As a little boy in Argentina, I played futsal on the streets and for my club. It was tremendous fun, and it really helped me become who I am" - Lionel Messi, FC Barcelona and Argentina.

The GK Academy gave a huge "G'day mate" to Coach Steveo who has moved over to Australia to coach on the Gold Coast. Coach Graeme who is proving to be a huge success already has replaced him.

For some extra training we also play Futsal every Wednesday night at Meggatland 6.15-7.15pm."

## 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 or suggestions for future editions of the Newsletter please contact [david.muego@sky.com](mailto:david.muego@sky.com). Remember, it is your Newsletter.